

Canadian

Fall 2009

MINING

Magazine

From **Natural Gas**
to **Gold:**
Mining is **BIG** in
British Columbia

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52 Donald Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1L6
Toll Free Phone: (866) 999-1299
Toll Free Fax: (866) 244-2544
www.matrixgroupinc.net
www.canadianminingmagazine.com

President & CEO
Jack Andress

Senior Publisher
Maurice LaBorde
mlaborde@matrixgroupinc.net

Publishers
Peter Schulz
Jessica Potter
Trish Bird

Editor-in-Chief
Shannon Savory
ssavory@matrixgroupinc.net

Finance/Accounting & Administration
Shoshana Weinberg, Pat Andress, Nathan Redekop
accounting@matrixgroupinc.net

Director of Marketing & Circulation
Shoshana Weinberg

Sales Manager
Neil Gottfred

Sales Team Leader
Albert Brydges

Matrix Group Inc. Account Executives
Albert Brydges, Davin Commandeur, Lewis Daigle, Rick Kuzie, Miles Meagher, Ken Percival, Lesley Dion, Frank Christmann, Brian Davey, Wilma Rose, Jim Hamilton, Chris Frezna, Declan O'Donovan, Jeff Cash

Layout & Design
Travis Bevan

Advertising Design
James Robinson

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ON THE COVER:

This photo, taken by Javier Encinas, shows the Titan Terex located in Sparwood, B.C. The Titan is the largest tandem-axle off-road dump truck in the world, with a height of 6.88m, a length of 20.9m, a weight of 260 tons, and a payload of 350 tons.



From Natural Gas to Gold: Mining is BIG in British Columbia

In 2008 most Canadian provinces reported a decrease in their overall value of mineral production; British Columbia, however, reported an 18.6 percent increase. This is according to the Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) annual Information Bulletin on Mineral Production for 2008, released in July 2009.

B.C.'s mining industry has been making the news throughout 2009, particularly when it comes to the all-time-high land rights sales, the highest of which took place in October. According to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Blair Lekstrom, the October sale resulted in \$370 million in bonus bids, the sixth-largest sale on record and the highest for 2009. This brings the calendar year to date total to \$700.6 million.

"B.C. is one of the most competitive natural gas jurisdictions in North America, and the results of the stimulus package show that companies feel secure investing here," said Lekstrom. "In this day and age capital investment is very fluid, and we want to encourage companies to do business in B.C."

The stimulus package Lekstrom is referring to was announced in August and has the advantage of not requiring direct government spending to increase activity and investment, while generating positive revenue to the Crown. In a conservative scenario, after three years the program will generate \$2.50 in net incremental revenues for every \$1 of royalty credit provided. Since these are royalty credits and not expenditures, the Crown benefits from the activity in addition to royalty revenue generated from wells that would likely not have been drilled.

The October 21st sale offered 62 parcels covering 66,837 hectares, and sold 58 parcels covering 65,787 hectares. The average price per hectare was \$5,625, which is the second-highest in B.C. history. The key parcels in the sale were in the Montney and included:

- Four drilling licences near the Altares Field area, approximately 20 km north of Hudson's Hope, which totalled over \$201 million. Bids ranged from \$4,088 to \$18,650 per hectare.
- Eight drilling licences near the Cypress Field, approximately 80 km northwest of Hudson's Hope, with bids that ranged from over \$3,000 to over \$7,000 per hectare and totalled over \$56 million.

Drilling licences provide the exclusive right to explore for natural gas by drilling wells. They are acquired by the successful bidder at the Crown sale, and primary

terms are three, four or five years, depending on location. The next sale, scheduled for November 18, will offer 44 parcels covering 21,267 hectares.

"The natural gas industry generates jobs and provides stability to families in B.C.," added Lekstrom. "This sale is a strong indication that the natural gas industry continues to play an important role in bringing vitality and economic prosperity to B.C. communities."

In fact, the oil and gas industry generates over \$2 billion in Crown revenues annually. And through innovative royalty programs and the recently announced Oil and Gas Stimulus Package, the province is attracting new investment and making the oil and gas industry one of the fastest growing sectors in the province. Since 2001, the oil and gas industry has invested \$37.8 billion in British Columbia.

British Columbia's mining success isn't just about natural gas though; other major mining projects are also moving forward despite the economic slowdown. Two such examples, the Morrison copper gold project near Smithers and the Copper Mountain project outside Princeton, took important steps forward in September, which is good news for the province's economy.

As reported by the Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC), the Pacific Booker Minerals Inc's Morrison project filed its application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate with the BC Environmental Assessment Office. If accepted, this application will trigger a B.C. environmental review, which is a key step in the mine development process. With plans to start operations in 2012, the project proposes a 30,000 tonnes/day open pit mine over a projected mine life of 21 years.

The Copper Mountain project received approval from the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to proceed with new mill foundation construction that enables the company to start building what should be B.C.'s

Coal project meets expectations

Vancouver-based Compliance Energy Corporation announced in October that this summer's drill program at the Raven Underground Coal Project was completed with results meeting expectations. This drill program was very successful and it will allow the current measured and indicated resource of 39 million tonnes to be increased by upgrading a significant portion of the current inferred resource of 59 million tonnes to the measured or indicated resource category. This will allow Pincok Allen & Holt to complete a feasibility study on a much larger resource with a potential mine life in excess of 20 years.

John Tapics, Chief Executive Officer, said, "this drill program completes the work to provide the resource which will form the basis of our feasibility study that is in progress. We are very pleased that the drill program will provide an upgrade of our resource."

The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2010.

next major copper mine. The \$70 million mill foundation construction work is expected to create at least 90 full time jobs this fall, with production starting by mid-2011. Final mine permit amendments are expected in the near future.

"Two major B.C. mining projects took important steps forward," stated Pierre Gratton, President and CEO of MABC. "This is good news for British Columbia, particularly during the current economic downturn. These projects will create new jobs and economic opportunities in north central and southern British Columbia."

In fact, the B.C. mining sector currently contributes over \$8 billion to the B.C. economy. And while many mines worldwide are feeling the pinch right now, the long-term prognosis is for a robust B.C. mining sector, supported by demand for minerals and metals from emerging economies such as China and India. Right now, over 20 B.C. mining projects are in the environmental review process and around a half dozen of them are well-advanced and are planning to move to development in the next few years.

One such project was announced by the federal government in September, with the promise that the government would help fund the construction of the Northwest Transmission Line, which would electrify the northern corner of

the province while connecting the power grid to Alaska. The funding amounts to \$130 million out of an estimated total project cost of \$404 million.

The project, which is set to begin construction in the spring of 2010, has the potential to support mine development in the north, much to the delight of Gratton. "This is great news I think for the province and it's great news for many in our industry," he said. "It will make existing exploration projects in the region more viable."

The province has already invested \$10 million to support the environmental assessment and First Nations consultation process. The new 287-kilovolt line will extend 335 km from Terrace to Meziadin Junction and north to Bob Quinn Lake, providing access to the electricity grid for customers while supporting the economic diversification of the area.

The project could also support the development of a number of new mines, take advantage of the vast mineral potential in that region and help realize the potential of the Prince Rupert Fairview Container Terminal. It will also support the development of clean, renewable electricity projects in the region. Expanding transmission along highway 37 could also stimulate thousands of jobs and billions of dollars worth of economic activity for British Columbia.

"B.C. is one of the most competitive natural gas jurisdictions in North America, and the results of the stimulus package show that companies feel secure investing here. In this day and age capital investment is very fluid, and we want to encourage companies to do business in B.C."

B.C.-based company boasts success in Mexico

Timmins Gold Corp. recently announced that Sprott Asset Management LP has agreed to provide USD\$15 million senior secured financing to fund the development of Timmins Gold's wholly-owned San Francisco gold project in Sonora, Mexico. The financing will consist of the purchase of US\$15 million in Senior Secured Notes. The proceeds from the notes will provide the funding required to advance San Francisco through production. This financing provides Timmins Gold with financial and operational flexibility to advance the project without resort to hedging and other restrictions on operations.

Timmins Gold is a near-term gold producer in Mexico. With construction at the San Francisco gold mine complete, Timmins Gold plans to pour gold by January of 2010. In addition to the San Francisco gold mine and its 42,000 hectare land package, Timmins Gold has over 30,000 hectares of prospective claims in the immediate area.

During operations, the mine is expected to directly employ about 400 people at the mine and provide a total of 1,240 PYs of employment benefits to British Columbians every year.

In addition, B.C. is recognized as a clean energy powerhouse and this project will help British Columbia to reach its goal of curbing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent by 2020.

A gold rush, courtesy of Terrane Metals Corp. is also underway in British Columbia. In October the B.C.-based company announced results of the Feasibility Update for the company's 100 percent-owned Mt. Milligan Copper-Gold Project. The open-pit mining project is located 155 kilometers northwest of Prince George in north-central British Columbia. The 2009 study is a key component of a 14 month/\$21.5 million Modified Project Execution Plan to advance the project through the completion of key pre-construction-related activities.

Key highlights of the study include:

- Gold in reserves +31 percent to 6.0 million oz;

- Copper in reserves +33 percent to 2.1 billion lb;
- Mine life +45 percent to 22 years;
- Life-of-Mine strip ratio steady at 0.84/1;
- Capital cost steady at \$915 million;
- Payback 4.1 years;
- Pre-Tax Internal Rate of Return 17.2 percent; and
- Net Present Value (5 percent) \$1.05 billion.

Robert Pease, President and CEO, of Terrane said, "fourteen months ago Mt. Milligan was a great project. Today, with reduced technical and capital cost risk, increased mine life and enhanced sustainability for the region, it is even better. Backed by six million 'shovel-ready' ounces and a 22 year reserve base, it is one of the largest undeveloped gold reserves in Canada. With a market capitalization of approximately US\$44 per



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reserve ounce, Mt. Milligan and Terrane are well-positioned for growth.”

In late October Terrane Metals released further information on how this project will benefit British Columbia. Points include:

- Mt. Milligan’s capital construction expenditures for local goods and services in B.C. will be approximately \$370 million during the 30 month construction period.
- Annual operating expenditures in B.C. will average \$132 million; the majority of which will go directly into the regional economy.
- During the construction period, the Mt. Milligan Project is expected to provide 780 person-years (PYs) of employment, and will create a total 4,240 PYs of direct, indirect and induced employment.
- During operations, the mine is expected to directly employ about 400 people and provide a total of 1,240 PYs of employment benefits to British Columbians every year.
- Communities such as Prince George, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof and Mackenzie are anticipated to experience a large majority of the employment benefits during construction and operations.
- Job types will range from mine and processing plant operations to administration, security, and environmental support; providing ample opportunity to a variety of individuals.
- Wages and benefits are expected to total \$82 million during construction and \$31 million annually during operation.

For the 22-year mine life, gold production will average 194,500 ounces per year and account for 51 percent of revenue. Copper production will average 81 million pounds per year and account for 455 of revenue. Commercial production is scheduled to commence during the first quarter of 2013.

According to Pricewaterhouse Coopers’ 2008 Mining Report, the mining industry in B.C. generated gross revenues of \$8.4 billion in 2008. What will the end-result be for 2009? Canadian Mining Magazine will let you know in a few months!



Roundup 2010: Don't Miss Out!

The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) and the Roundup Organizing Committee invite you to the 27th annual Mineral Exploration Roundup from January 18 to 21, 2010. Once again, Roundup will bring together organizations and people representing all components of the global mineral exploration and mining sector in Vancouver, Canada.

The theme of Mineral Exploration Roundup 2010 is “Go for the Gold and Everything Else”. Mineral explorers and miners are known for their tenacity, endurance, and drive—the past year has proven to be one of challenge, and of opportunity. Roundup offers members of the global mineral exploration community many reasons to be optimistic: short courses, keynote addresses, technical sessions, and field trips.



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Mining Comes to Manitoba

In November hundreds of people from around the world interested and working in the mining industry will flock to Winnipeg, Manitoba for the annual Manitoba Mining & Minerals Convention. The conference focuses on everything mining, from new geological findings, to funding, to how the industry affects people and the environment.

Last year the conference, which celebrated 40 years in 2008, attracted almost 1,000 delegates. This year is shaping up to be close to the same, despite the economic slowdown. One of the reasons is that Manitoba's mining industry is so strong, making it an attractive environment to explore. In fact, advantages such as the ones below have resulted in mineral exploration in 2008 reaching an all-time high of \$141.5 million, representing 5 percent of the Canadian total:

- The Mineral Exploration Assistance Program (MEAP) and the Prospectors

Assistance Program (MPAP) offers over \$2.5 million annually to support mineral exploration and prospecting.

- The Mineral Exploration Tax Credit provides tax incentives for Manitobans who invest in Manitoba-based exploration projects. This helps stimulate investment in junior exploration companies operating in Manitoba.
- There is a "tax holiday" for new mines until profits exceed the total cost of capital assets.
- Manitoba has the lowest published electricity rates in North America.

Winnipeg, Science, Technology, Energy and Mines Minister Jim Rondeau, who will be speaking Friday, November 20th at 9 am, has said in the past: "Over the years, this convention has promoted Manitoba's mineral resource potential as an investment opportunity. The convention provides the ideal forum to learn more about exploration and mining in Manitoba."

This year is no different. Manitoba-



focused highlights include: a presentation on the new Britannia Mine Property near Snow Lake, specifically addressing its economic and environmental evaluation of the Arsenopyrite Residue Pile; an update on Manitoba mineral exploration and development trends for 2009; an update from the Manitoba Geological Survey on 2009 activities; results from a three-year mapping initiative of northern Manitoba; and information from the Manitoba Mines Branch on the rehabilitation of orphaned and abandoned mines in the province.

However, there are numerous sessions planned that have universal appeal, including: a session on current trends and tools for achieving sustainable mining projects in Canada and internationally; a checklist of preparation steps consistent with Supreme Court case law, regarding working with and consulting with Aboriginal Peoples;

Fast fact: Go to www.mineralsconvention.com for a full schedule of events!



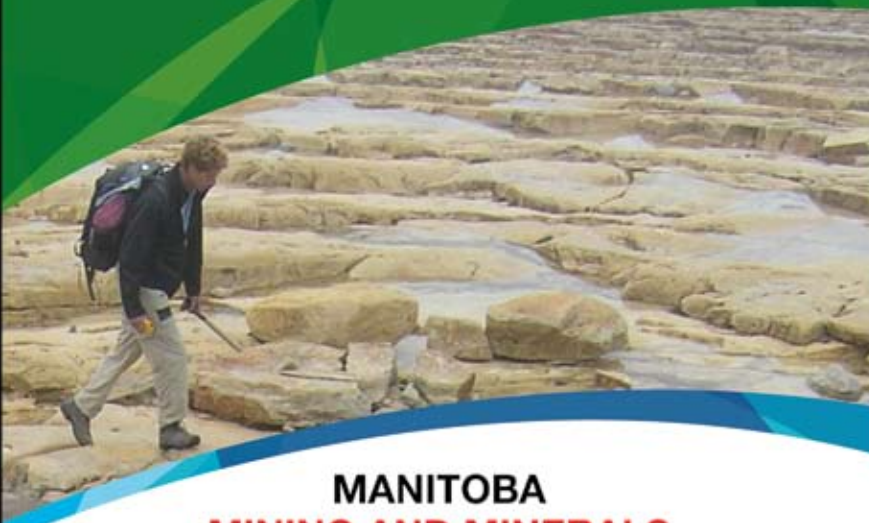
*Memories from the 2008 Conference.
Photos courtesy of Manitoba Science,
Technology, Energy and Mines.*

a presentation about using effective environmental management to avoid liability; and a presentation from the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), which is working with Aboriginal communities to create new opportunities, jobs and sustainable development.

As usual, there are also short courses and workshops going on throughout the convention. This year four hours on Thursday, November 19th will be devoted to a short course on drift exploration in Manitoba. It will consist of a panel of experts who will present drift exploration principles, methods and examples for a variety of commodities, including base and precious metals, uranium and diamonds in glaciated terrains in Manitoba. A workshop planned for Friday, November 20th, will look at how cooperation between the mining industry and Aboriginal communities is essential. This free workshop will also feature an expert panel, including Grand Chief Ron Evans, from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and Jason Wilson, from the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada.

Fast fact: This year's Manitoba Mining & Minerals Convention will once again feature a Trade Show full of exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, tools and services. This year over 60 exhibitors will be showcasing their products and services, and over 30 mining companies will have information from various properties on display!

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Conference Preview

Manitoba's Mining Tax regime excels in PricewaterhouseCoopers Report

Manitoba was rated among the most competitive provinces for mining activity in Canada, ranking number two in the country for the competitiveness of its mining tax regime, according to the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) 2009 Canadian mining tax report, Science, Technology Energy and Mines Minister Jim Rondeau said in late October.

"The ranking by PricewaterhouseCoopers is welcome news as it confirms our commitment to support and strengthen the minerals industry in Manitoba," said Rondeau. "The incentives government provides, combined with our rich

resources, continue to be a solid economic driver for the province's mining industry."

Rondeau noted the province is committed to investing in mineral exploration and mining, and working with industry to boost the economic opportunities the sector offers. He said companies are attracted to Manitoba because of its policies for mineral investment that make it one of the best places in the world to explore.

Recent initiatives to support the mining industry in Manitoba include:

- Reducing the mining tax;
- Extending the mineral exploration tax credit by three years to 2012;

- Reducing the general corporate income tax rate to 12 percent;
- Phasing out the general corporation capital tax;
- Extending the Mineral Exploration Assistance Program and the Prospectors' Assistance Program, which offer approximately \$2.5 million in annual funding to support exploration;
- Entering into a \$3 million partnership with the federal government to remap Manitoba's far north; and
- Initiating a new, \$1-million Training and Workforce Retention Initiative.

Company spending for mineral exploration reached an all-time high of \$141.5 million in 2008. **M**



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New Tailings Water Management System

Supports Expansion, Helps Safeguard Environment

By David Oliphant

A recent tailings water management overhaul provides increased capacity for high volume tailings water and significantly reduces treatment time. The new system also ensures the operation maintains low impact to the environment.

The Goldcorp Red Lake Mine in Balmertown, Ontario, is Canada's largest gold mine and one of the world's richest and lowest cost gold producing operations. Mining is carried out using underground cut and fill techniques, allowing maximum ore extraction and minimal dilution. The operation continues to grow, recently adding Shaft #3, a 6,134-foot deep shaft complex, and expanding its mill capacity to 1,200 tonnes per day.

Prior to this expansion, tailings were either directed underground for use as backfill or discharged to the operation's tailings water management facility for further refining through natural attenuation and ferric treatment prior to discharge to nearby Balmer Lake. The mine and mill expansion rendered these treatment methods inefficient for handling the increased volume of tailings pond effluent.

Goldcorp initiated procedures for identifying potential new treatment systems that could handle the projected increased loadings. But handling the sheer volume of additional tailings water was not the only objective. While most treatment processes are designed to remove a broad range of contaminants, precipitated arsenic is the primary contaminant of concern for Red Lake Mine. In addition to elevated arsenic treatment, elevated ammonia levels in the tailings ponds during the winter and early spring are present. In the late spring and summer, as the water temperature increases, bacteria in the tailings ponds becomes more active and the ammonia levels drop below the mine's 10 mg/l discharge limit.

With the higher treatment volumes resulting from the mine's increased production, Goldcorp required a high rate water treatment system capable of treating the high volume of tailings effluent water for arsenic during May through October, when ammonia levels are naturally below 10 mg/l.

Following a comprehensive technology review, Goldcorp requested a pilot study to determine the efficiency of a high rate sand-ballasted flocculation and clarification process. The process, ACTIFLO®, has proven especially suitable for removing contaminants such as arsenic, heavy metals and suspended solids from many sources of contaminated water.

The test ran for two weeks, during which time raw water was pumped from the tailings pond into the pilot unit. Following treatment, the clarified water was pumped into a different pond and the residual sludge returned to the original tailings pond.

High arsenic removal achieved

The results from the pilot test showed arsenic removal at 94 percent, with clarified water containing only .09 mg/L arsenic, well below the 0.3 mg/L target. Although iron concentration increased slightly (due to iron based coagulant used for this application) it remained below the target value of 1 mg/L. In addition, turbidity was reduced by 67 percent, from 3 NTU to 1 NTU. The process was able to produce good clarified water quality that easily met the pilot testing program requirements at a rise rate as high as 60 m/h.

Based on the pilot study results (for specific numbers contact the author), the tailings water management facility

was completely overhauled to add two ACTIFLO ACP-750 package plants for high-rate sand-ballasted flocculation and clarification, followed by an ACTIDYN® Lamella Thickener to provide high load sludge thickening. The ACTIFLO and ACTIDYN systems are both developed and patented by Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies (VWS). VWS Canada provided the treatment plant to the Red Lake Mine. With these renovations in place, total flow capacity has been increased to 30,000 m³/d, while continuing to meet and exceed all provincial and federal effluent standards in the discharge water.

Sand-ballasted flocculation, clarification

The sand-ballasted flocculation and clarification process is a compact process that operates with microsand as a seed for floc formation. The microsand provides surface area that enhances flocculation and also acts as a ballast or weight to aid a rapid settlement, resulting in a very high rate settling process with a very small footprint.

With this process (see Figure 1), raw water is first mixed with a coagulant in a high-shear environment where it is retained for two minutes. In the next tank, the water is injected with a polymer along with microsand and mixed aggressively for roughly another two minutes. The water then enters a "maturation zone," where gentle shear is applied for an additional six minutes.



The Red Lake Mine's arsenic treatment plant includes two ACTIFLO® ACP-750 units with a total flow capacity of 30,000 m³/d. Retention time of the sand-ballasted flocculation and settling technology is considerably lower than conventional treatment.

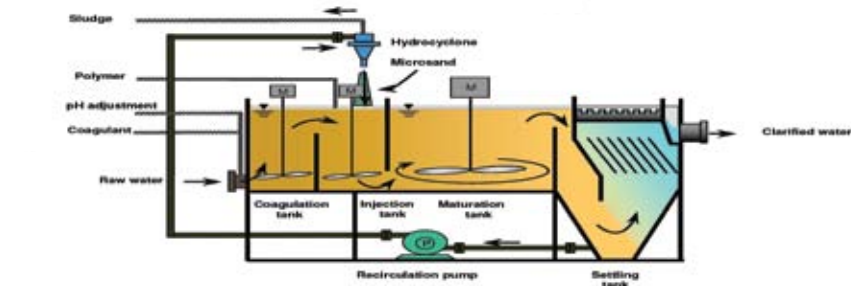
The microsand-ballasted flocs increase in size, trapping smaller flocs before the water enters the sedimentation tank, where the large flocs immediately begin to settle. The clarified water at this stage then counterflows upward through settling tubes to collection troughs where it can be diverted to various applications. The microsand and other solids in the ballasted flocs that settle in the bottom of the tank are then pumped to a hydrocyclone centrifuge. The microsand is cleaned and re-injected for reuse and the waste solids are removed.

This process allows for high overflow rates and short retention times. It can also handle extreme conditions with high upflow velocities (40-150 m/hr) with quick response time (less than 10 minutes).

The ACTIFLO process serves not only as an effective high-rate clarifier but also as a highly versatile chemical reaction vessel. Depending on pH conditions, colloidal and dissolved metals in the influent can be precipitated using classic and familiar chemical methods for efficient sand-ballasted removal in the settling step. Because retention times in the system are very rapid (minutes instead of hours), the technology is extremely compact, providing increased capacity without the large surface area requirements of traditional flocculation/sedimentation systems.

High load sludge thickening

The ACTIDYN Lamella Thickener, added to condition the sludge coming off the two ACTIFLO units, is a high-rate gravity settler combined with a circular picket-fence sludge thickener/scrapper in one tank. It provides high load sludge thickening through chemical flocculation followed by lamella clarification and picket fence thickening. Picket fence thickening includes a series of vertical rods supported on a structure that spans the tank. As it rotates about the center of the tank, a series of vertical voids are produced which permit the passage of separated water and micro-bubbles released from the flocs to rise to the surface. By combining this mechanical procedure with chemical flocculation and lamella settling, the process provides the advantages of producing good supernate



The ACTIFLO® system is an extremely compact, high-rate water clarification/treatment process that provides increased capacity without the large surface area requirements of traditional flocculation/sedimentation systems. Several important features combine to make the system very conducive to mining applications: high quality effluent, process stability, and reduced chemical consumption.

quality and high thickened sludge concentration in a small footprint.

Results

Construction of the tailings water treatment plant was completed in April 2007, and performance testing was completed the following May. The end of 2008 marked the first full year of operation of the new systems at the Red Lake Mine.

"The ACTIFLO system is performing very well, as anticipated," says David Gelderland, Environmental Manager for Goldcorp Red Lake Gold Mines. "We are meeting compliance standards with ease and the plant has excess capacity to deal with storm events."

The high rate systems allow the Red Lake Mine to meet its entire annual tailings water arsenic removal goals during May through September, when ammonia levels are below the 10 mg/L threshold.

"The ability of this process to minimize treatment time allows us to retain water over the winter and utilize natural degradation during the spring and summer. Then, as ammonia concentrations are acceptable, we batch treat our tailing effluent through the treatment season. We move tailing effluent through our four-stage tailings management area. When the ammonia levels reach the appropriate threshold, we turn the ACTIFLO plant on, drain the water from the final impoundment over short duration and then shut the plant down, move more water downstream, waiting for further ammonia degradation."

The sand-ballasted flocculation and clarification process at Red Lake mine is completely automated, minimizing staff workload. "We can oversee the entire process from our office complex. We

perform maintenance as required and top off the reagent tanks, but the system is very automated," Gelderland says.

With the addition of the ACTIDYN sludge thickener, solids have increased approximately 2.5 percent. According to Gelderland, the mine is exceeding its expectations on sludge densities achieved.

"This translates to significantly increased storage life for our sludge pond. We had been looking at a five-year storage life. Now we're probably looking at 10-20 years of storage life."

High standards met

The new treatment processes have been welcome additions to the Red Lake Mine, providing the performance the operation needed in its tailings water treatment to allow for expansion of the mine and mill without adverse impact to the environment.

"Currently our arsenic limit is .25 mg/L, but the treatment objective for arsenic treatment objective is .05 mg/L," Gelderland says. "That's a substantial reduction, and our Red Lake plant easily meets that criteria."

Goldcorp maintains high standards of environmental responsibility in its mining operations. One of the major items of environmental concern in any mining operation is the disposal and/or refinement of mine tailings. Goldcorp has incorporated high rate treatment processes at its Red Lake mine that serve the operation at a level consistent with its high commitment to the local community and the environment. ■

David Oliphant is Director of Industrial Sales for Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies Canada. He can be reached at (905) 286-4846 or david.oliphant@veoliawater.com.

HR Report: Mining Industry Needs Thousands of Workers in the Next Decade

By Sheldon Polowin, Program Manager, Research and Labour Market Information at the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR)

Since October 2008, the global economy has experienced a credit crisis, falling commodity prices and declining demand for goods and services. The Canadian mining industry, which employs about 215,000 in extraction and processing, has been adversely affected by these developments. The Mining Association of Canada reports that between October 2008 and August 2009, more than 30 mines suspended operations. Companies involved in non-metallic mineral and/or fabricated mineral production have generally operated at around two-thirds of capacity. Between October 2008 and October 2009, the mining, oil and gas extraction support industry had shed almost 20,000 employees, more than 20 percent of its workforce.

Despite this unfortunate situation, it is important to note that the decline in mining is the result of a cyclical downturn in a market that is fundamentally sound, and not indicative of a structural problem.

Many of the world's industrialized nations have implemented large-scale fiscal stimulus packages in order to propel their economies out of recession. The more coordinated these initiatives are, the greater the expansionary effect on the global economy and the more the mining industry will benefit. In Canada, the federal government has pledged to inject nearly \$30 billion in 2009 and 2010 into infrastructure projects, while other levels of government are expected to contribute an estimated \$9 billion to the effort. Increased credit flows and the multiplier effects of the fiscal stimuli are beginning to work their way through the economic system.

Some positive economic signs have already begun to emerge. Consumer spending, which comprises about two-thirds of

domestic economic activity, has increased in the past few months. According to Manpower Canada's Employment Outlook Survey for the fourth quarter, of 2009, domestic mining companies feel more optimistic about their economic prospects than at any time in the past year. This bodes well for laid-off workers and potential entrants to the mining sector. Organizations such as the Conference Board of Canada and the Bank of Canada, anticipate that the U.S. and Canadian economies will expand by around 2 percent and 3 percent, respectively, in 2010.

It is anticipated that the mining industry will need tens of thousands of new workers in the next decade in order to meet its labour force requirements. The average Canadian miner is close to 45 years of age and 40 percent of the mining workforce will be eligible to retire by 2014. To address the risks posed by this situation, mining companies will need to intensify their efforts in employee retention, attraction, leadership development, skills training and succession planning. Organizations that do this will be better-equipped to exploit the commercial opportunities that emerge once the economy recovers. Greater cooperation between governments, industry, academia, Aboriginal peoples and other stakeholders will also be integral to addressing the sector's training, mobility and immigration requirements.

The Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) monitors and addresses human resource challenges facing the mining industry. One of our key initiatives is the Mining Industry Workforce Information Network (MIWIN), which was launched in 2007. Its main goal is to provide accurate and timely labour market information (LMI) to the mining industry and its stakeholders. Among other things, this entails forecasting future hiring requirements in the sector, by occupation and region. To



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date, MIWIN forecasts have been produced for the mining sectors of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

In October 2009, we began developing a pan-Canada forecasting capability. As part of this effort, we will survey 20 to 30 large scale mining employers in Canada, in order to elicit information about the occupational structure of their workforce, retirement projections and other parameters that will impact future hiring needs. Ultimately, MIWIN will include a web-based online query function, which will enable users to generate custom hiring forecasts, based on selected criteria.

This capability will greatly enhance our ability to provide relevant and useful LMI to mining industry stakeholders. It will also provide the empirical foundation necessary to support industry's efforts in its other areas of activity, such as attraction, retention, worker mobility and transition. Participation in MIWIN studies is voluntary, but the more you contribute, the better information we can provide. To find out more about MIWIN, get involved or access the reports already produced log on to www.mihr.ca.

Sheldon Polowin, Program Manager, Research and Labour Market Information at the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR), is responsible for supporting the development of the national Mining Industry Workforce Intelligence Network (MIWIN) system by conducting economic research and analysis and developing labour market forecast models. He can be contacted at (613) 270-9696 or spolowin@mihr.ca. You can also go to www.mihr.ca for more information.



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TRANSACTION REPORT



International cash is king?

According to an October 23rd article on Reuters.com, Canada's energy and mining sectors are riding a wave of acquisitions by Asian companies that are starving for resources which are needed to fuel rapidly expanding economies. It's a trend, the article says, which is not expected to let up soon.

Examples include Korea National Oil Corp's C\$1.8 billion bid for Harvest Energy Trust earlier in October; China's No. 2 nickel miner, Jilin Jien Nickel Industry and Canada's Goldbrook Ventures offer to buy mining developer Canadian Royalties Inc. for nearly C\$200 million; and in August when state-owned PetroChina paid C\$1.9 billion for a 60 percent stake in two planned oil sands projects owned by Athabasca Oil Corp. This was China's largest Canadian oil acquisition to date.

In addition, Chinese state-owned metals trader China Minmetals Corp. is reportedly looking to buy gold mines in Australia and Canada, according to comments made by Huang Dongmei, Deputy General Manager, at an industry forum in China's port city of Tianjin. China Minmetals reported sales of 180.9 billion yuan (\$26.6 billion) last year, and a net profit of 7.1 billion yuan, up from 6.8 billion yuan in 2007.

The Reuters article predicts the number of such deals will only increase as China, Korea and other Asian nations seek to own the production of resources such as nickel or oil, instead of having to buy them on international markets. For example, South Korea aims to pump 300,000 barrels of oil a day by 2012 as it expands its manufacturing economy. It is currently the world's fifth-largest oil importer.

Xstrata bid for Anglo American a no-go

Xstrata announced in mid-October that it will not make a formal approach at this time for a merger with bigger rival Anglo American Corporation—a combination that would have created a super-miner to rival or exceed BHP Billiton in size.

Mick Davis, Acquisitive Xstrata's Chief Executive, said in a statement, "my letter to the Board of Anglo American was intended to commence confidential discussions to explore the potential to merge Xstrata and Anglo American and create a new mining super-major with the scale and diversity to compete in the evolving global mining sector. It is regrettable that the Board of Anglo American immediately rejected our approach, without engaging with Xstrata to investigate the potential to create more value than either company could alone."

He continued, "nonetheless, the compelling strategic rationale for a merger of the two companies remains undiminished and has been recognised by shareholders of both companies. As previously announced, a merger would deliver over US\$1 billion of quantified pre-tax synergies per annum by the third full year following completion, together with superior competitive positioning, scale and diversity. Cost savings measures by either company alone, while commendable, simply cannot realise this value, nor deliver the associated strategic benefits."

Talks end between Atlantic Coal and Strategic Natural Resources (SNR)

The board of SNR announced in October that it has been unable to agree on terms for Atlantic Coal plc to proceed with a recommended offer for SNR and accordingly, talks between the two companies in relation to an offer have now ended.

SNS Silver to acquire advanced Ontario gold project

SNS Silver Corporation has entered into a Letter of Intent pursuant to which SNS has received the exclusive option to acquire 100 percent of Northern Nickel Mining Inc.'s interest in the Golden Rose Mine consisting of 15 mining leases and 31 mining claims located in Afton and Scholes Townships in the Sudbury Mining District of Ontario.

Free Gold was first discovered in weathered Iron Formation on the shores of Emerald Lake in 1897.

In 1987 Noramco Mining Corporation constructed a 400 tons per-day mill on the property and carried on mine production from August 1987 to September 1988 until falling gold prices forced the suspension of activity.

Sage Gold Inc. and Consolidated Puma Minerals Corp. successfully merge

Sage Gold Inc. announced their merger with Consolidated Puma Minerals Corp. was successfully completed effective August 7, 2009. With the closing of this transaction, Consolidated Puma shareholders became shareholders of Sage Gold on the basis of 1.202 shares of Sage for each Consolidated Puma common share held.

Sage President & CEO, Nigel Lees said at closing, "we welcome the shareholders of Consolidated Puma as shareholders of Sage Gold. The additional shareholder base and the addition of two Puma directors will provide additional expertise in the resource business as Sage moves forward with the development of its exciting properties in the Beardmore Geraldton Gold camp." □

Junior Mining News

Alexis establishes itself as a diversified junior

In October 2009 Alexis Minerals Corporation and Garson Gold Corp. jointly announced that they have entered into a definitive support agreement pursuant to which Alexis will offer to acquire all of the outstanding common shares of Garson not currently held by Alexis, in exchange for Alexis common shares.

The successful completion of this transaction will establish Alexis as a diversified junior Canadian gold company. Upon completion of this transaction, Alexis' portfolio includes the following:

- Established production at Alexis' Lac Herbin Mine in Val d'Or, with annual production of 35,000 - 40,000 ounces of gold.
- Near-term production growth to 75,000 - 80,000 ounces of gold per year through the addition of the Lac Pelletier Mine in Rouyn-Noranda, expected to produce 10,000 ounces of gold in 2009, growing to 35,000 - 40,000 ounces in 2010.
- Medium-term targeted production growth to 150,000 ounces of gold per year with the addition of production at the New Britannia Gold Mine in Snow Lake.

Through the acquisition of Garson, Alexis is acquiring the past producing New Britannia Gold Mine, located in Snow Lake, Manitoba. The property consists of approximately 4,840 hectares of mineral claims and leases containing over ten known mineralized zones, including four gold deposits with 43-101 resources, three of which are historic production sites.

David Rigg, President and CEO of Alexis, commented, "Alexis will now be

active in two best-of-class Canadian mining jurisdictions and will own significant mine and mill infrastructure providing for production opportunities with low estimated cost structures."

Bear Creek's silver projects propel company forward

Canadian investment specialist Haywood Securities says Vancouver junior Bear Creek, has the potential of mining 10 million silver ounces and 4.5 million silver ounces respectively annually, which puts the company in charge of two of the world's top 10 primary silver mines.

In a recent analysis, Haywood metals analysts Chris Thompson and Colin Healey said, "with an updated economic assessment for Corani and Santa Ana, plus a game plan that will see both producing in 2013—Bear Creek offers the right mix of near-term world class silver, lead and zinc production."

Thompson and Healey estimate the US\$345 million open pit mine at Corani would yield 192.3 million ounces of silver, 2.1 billion pounds of lead and 1 billion pounds of zinc over a 26-year mine life, using convention flotation recovery methods. The analysts assume production will begin in the third quarter of 2013.

Premier Gold Mines enters into agreement with Jones, Gable & Company Limited

Premier Gold Mines announced in September 2009 that it entered into an agreement with Jones, Gable & Company Limited in connection with a best-efforts private placement of "flow-through" common shares of Premier at a price of \$3.65

per Flow-Through Share for aggregate gross proceeds of up to big C\$5.5 million. The Flow-Through Shares will be offered by way of private placement to accredited investors in each of the provinces of Canada. Premier plans to use the gross proceeds from the sale of the Flow-Through Shares for exploration programs to be conducted on the Hardrock project, Red Lake projects and PQ North project in Ontario.

"Premier will remain one of the industry's most active explorers with an exploration budget of approximately \$20 million over the next 15 months," said Ewan Downie, President of Premier. "We expect our exploration program will include more than 100,000 metres of drilling on four projects prior to the end of 2010."

Rainy River announces flow-through share financing

In October 2009 Rainy River Resources Ltd. announced that it entered into an agreement for an offering, on a best efforts basis and through a syndicate of agents led by Wellington West Capital Markets Inc., of 2,840,000 flow-through common shares of Rainy River at a price of \$2.82 per flow-through share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$8,008,800. All sales of flow-through shares will be made on a private placement basis pursuant to exemptions from the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Gross proceeds from the sale of the flow-through shares will be used to fund ongoing exploration activities on the company's Rainy River Project, which expenses are eligible for Canadian exploration expenses for tax purposes and will be renounced in favour of the subscribers for the flow-through shares effective on or before December 31, 2009.

Marathon PGM: Development plans for Geordie Lake Deposit

Marathon PGM Corporation announced in October 2009 results of recently completed work and plans for exploration and development work of the Geordie Lake deposit, located 14km northwest of the town of Marathon, Ontario.

Development and expansion of the Geordie Lake deposit has the potential to extend the projected operational mine life of the Marathon Project well beyond the current projected 10 years. The combined

measured and indicated resource for the Marathon and the Geordie Lake deposits currently exceeds 150 million tonnes.

Marathon believes there is good potential to expand the resource through a planned program of prospecting, channel sampling and strategically planned infill and step-out drilling. Exploration plans for 2010 will focus on drilling down-dip and along-strike in order to expand the current resource.

Lake Shore Gold to acquire Bell Creek West block of properties

Emerging gold company Lake Shore Gold Corp. recently announced that they have entered into an agreement with Goldcorp Canada Ltd., manager of the Porcupine Gold Mines Joint Venture, and Goldcorp Inc., for the purchase of approximately 28 square kilometers of prospective exploration property (the Bell Creek West block of properties) in the surrounding vicinity of Lake Shore Gold's 100 percent owned Bell Creek Complex, currently comprised of the Bell Creek Mine and Mill and Schumacher and Vogel properties.

Tony Makuch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lake Shore Gold, commented, "the Bell Creek West acquisition builds on the significant progress we have achieved at the Bell Creek Complex and is an important step for Lake Shore Gold in establishing a second large-scale mining complex in the Timmins Camp. With the completion of this transaction, as well as our proposed business combination with West Timmins Mining Inc. (see press release dated August 27, 2009), Lake Shore Gold will have a total land package in this highly productive mining camp totaling 162 square kilometers."

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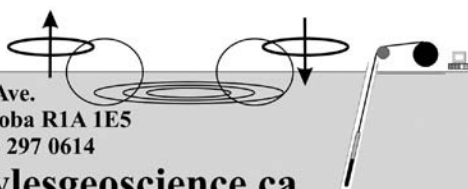
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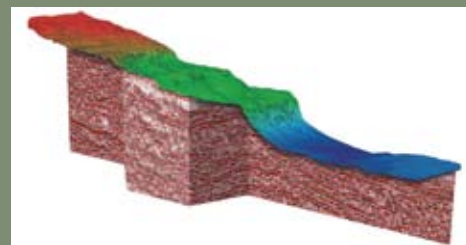


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The new 793F Cat® Mining Truck, the fifth generation of the 793, builds on the proven, 20-year performance record of its predecessors with a powerful new engine, choice of power train options, choice of body systems and a completely redesigned operator station. These refinements take the 793F—now with 2,650 horsepower (1976 kW) and a 250-ton (226.8-tonne) payload capacity—to higher standards of productivity, durability, operating ease, altitude capability, fuel efficiency and emissions control.

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New rock drill from Atlas Copco boosts efficiency and availability in long-hole drilling

Thanks to a new manufacturing technique, the Atlas Copco designers have been able to minimize losses in the hydraulic flow by optimizing the design of the channels and spool valve. This results in very high efficiency.

With the development of COP 3060MUX, Atlas Copco has also managed to increase the service interval to 600 percussion hours and still maintain drilling at high power. The key to this is the design of the hydraulic system which prolongs the service life of the internal seals. In addition, all wear parts have been optimized for longer service life. For example, the splines of the driver and shank adapter have been given a new shape which dramatically reduces wear on the driver—thus saving costs. Another cost saving is the reduced number of internal parts. This, together with the external flushing head gives high serviceability.

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Sandvik UH421 mobile secondary crushing unit is launched

One difference compared with the former, similar unit is that the screen is placed alongside of the unit, and has an optimal feed hopper. This means that the material is slowed down, and is well spread out by the time it reaches the screening media and that, all in all, the screening area is utilized better.

The efficiency of the Sandvik SS screen is perhaps best shown by the fact that during tests preceding the launch, 8-16 material taken directly from the crushing unit contained no fines at all. The result was very positive, as the input material was screened shortly after primary crushing, and was therefore relatively dry.

"A good result depends of course on the conditions at that specific customer, but it still shows the improved screening process," says Andreas Persson, Product Manager of wheel mobile units, Sandvik Mining and Construction.

The screen and the conveyors are designed for optimal capacity. Thanks to the fact that the feed station can easily be removed, it is possible to feed the material directly into the crusher. The conveyors are equipped with a robust drive, including external motors and angle gears.

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The North

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES Arctic Star Diamond Corp discovers new massive sulphide occurrences and kimberlite target at Credit Lake

Arctic Star Diamond Corp. recently reported the completion of its 2009 exploration field program in Northwest Territories; the program included focused nickel exploration in the Providence Lake Greenstone Belt and diamond drill target generation work, both within the Credit Lake property. Diamond exploration on the Crown Property was also advanced. At Credit Lake, crews discovered multiple new massive sulphide occurrences consisting of pyrrhotite-chalcopyrite mineralization in the Providence Lake Greenstone belt, and identified a new bathymetric anomaly at the head of a prominent kimberlite indicator dispersal train. Detailed till sampling for kimberlite indicator minerals was completed on the Crown Property claims.

Nickel exploration

Nickel exploration of the Providence Greenstone Belt within the Credit Lake claim block included ground magnetic surveys, horizontal loop electromagnetic surveys, soil sampling and geological inspection and sampling of 51 copper-nickel-cobalt-platinum group elements (Cu-Ni-Co-PGE) target zones identified from prior airborne geophysical survey data. As a result of the completion of this summer's activities, Arctic Star has

assembled a compelling group of drill targets to be tested in Q1-2010.

Diamond Exploration

Diamond exploration completed on the Credit Lake property includes detailed prospecting and the identification of a deep hole-like feature in the bottom of a lake located at the head of a prominent kimberlite indicator mineral (KIM) and alluvial diamond glacial dispersal train. An additional 33 diamond till samples were collected in this priority area to definitively close off the KIM dispersal anomaly and to focus future exploration. Arctic Star drilled the northern part of this bathymetry anomaly with DDH 08CR-04 and intersected broken tonalite in two intervals of the drill hole. Kimberlite was not noted in DDH 08CR-04 and the drill hole did not explain a high frequency HLEM conductor located in the vicinity of the new bathymetric low. Further diamond drilling of this target is warranted.

NUNAVUT

Shear Minerals Ltd. to acquire non diamond rights to Churchill Diamond Project

Shear Minerals Ltd. announced in October 2009 that it has agreed to acquire from Kaminak Gold Corporation all of the non diamond rights to the Churchill Diamond Project, Nunavut together with related datasets.

"This acquisition consolidates the

mineral rights for the Churchill Diamond Project," says Shear President and CEO Pamela Strand. "Our shareholders will be able to share in the upside potential of any gold or nickel discovery during our diamond exploration."

The Churchill Property is underlain by a number of Archean greenstone belts in the Hearne sub-province of the Churchill Structural Province which are favourable for high grade gold and nickel deposits. The nearby Meliadine Gold Trend is a multi million ounce lode gold deposit which is hosted by oxide iron formation. The North Rankin nickel mine, upon which the town of Rankin Inlet was founded, contained Ni-Cu-PGE mineralization hosted in an Archean komatiitic sill.

The planned work program by Shear will include a thorough in-house desktop compilation of all available data including geology, known showings, till sample assays and prospecting, followed by a 2010 prospecting program to follow-up priority anomalies with gold and nickel potential.

"Our shareholders will be able to share in the upside potential of any gold or nickel discovery during our diamond exploration."

YUKON

Mineral exploration investment to exceed projections

Investment in exploration of Yukon's mineral resources will likely exceed government projections this year, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang announced in September 2009. "There has been some encouraging news recently from Yukon's mining sector and this has spurred exploration companies to take a closer look and begin some new on-the-ground programs," Lang said. "With initial projections now expected to be surpassed, Yukon is benefiting from an increased demand for the services of local contractors and businesses."

In January, exploration investment in Yukon was expected to be in the range of \$20-\$30 million as a result of the economic downturn. However, with the recent upturn in the sector, current projections now place expected exploration expenditures at over \$50 million.

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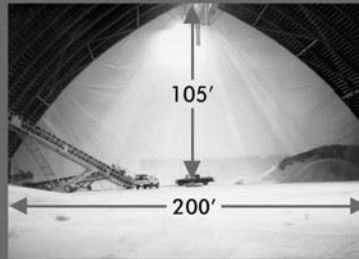
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results this spring from Underworld Resources' White Gold property, there has been increased interest in Yukon from mineral exploration companies. This has resulted in over 6,000 new placer and quartz claims being staked in the Dawson area since April 1. Positive results from other projects such as Atac Resources' Rau property and Northern Freegold's Revenue property have also attracted increased interest. "We want investors outside of Yukon to be aware of our mineral potential and the government's support for the mining sector," Lang added. **M**

The value of mineral production in the NWT & Nunavut totaled \$2,163,067,000 during the calendar year 2008, according to the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines. The Northwest Territories produced diamonds and tungsten concentrates during calendar year 2008 at a value of \$2,084,047,000 and \$55,510,000 respectively. Nunavut territory and its single diamond mine produced at a value of \$12,654,000.



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British Columbia

October's oil and gas rights sales highest for 2009

B.C.'s economy has received a much-needed boost with the October 2009 land rights sale, which resulted in \$370 million in bonus bids, the sixth-largest sale on record, announced Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Blair Lekstrom. This brings the calendar year to date total to \$700.6 million.

"This sale is great news for the province and shows that our innovative approach to royalty programs attracts investment," said Lekstrom. "B.C. is leading the way in developing a vibrant natural gas industry that will continue to drive the provincial economy."

This was the second-highest per-hectare sale in the history of B.C. at \$5,625.30, and is an example of how our innovative approach to royalty programs works.

Thelon Acquires Land in Stewart Mining Camp

Thelon Ventures reported in October 23, 2009 that it has entered into an option agreement with Blair Naughty to acquire a 100 percent interest in 4 claim blocks (approximately 1450 hectares) in the Stewart Mining camp in British Columbia. This block of land is in the vicinity of the new Montrose gold discovery announced by Decade Resources Ltd. on its Red Cliff property.

Decade recently announced (in Stockwatch September 3, 2009) drilling results of 7.3 grams per ton of gold across 28.3 metres and 5.78 grams per ton across 28.4 metres and 7.5 grams per ton gold across 32.5 metres. Thelon is in the process of attempting to acquire additional acreage in the area.

Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, to earn its option, Thelon

must pay the vendor \$15,000 in cash, issue a total of four million shares in the capital of the company and incur a total of \$225,000 in expenditures on the property, \$25,000 on or before July 1, 2010, with the balance on or before Dec. 1, 2011. The vendor has retained a 3 percent net-smelter-return royalty of which Thelon can buy down 1 per cent through the payment of \$1-million in cash or shares to the vendor prior to commercial production. A finder's fee in cash and securities may be payable with respect to the acquisition.

The company has also acquired 50 hectares of land from the vendor adjoining the Pinnacle mine owned by Ascot Resources from the vendor as part of the package.

Next phase of drilling commences at Clone Property

Canasia Industries Corporation announced in September 2009 that the second phase of drilling on the Clone Gold property, situated 18 km southeast of Stewart, BC, is now underway. The next phase of drilling calls for 15 additional holes.

The Clone property is host to at least four separate, parallel gold-bearing shear zones which contain both sulphide-gold-cobalt and iron oxide-gold mineralization. The first phase of program tested 20 holes that were drilled testing a variety of targets along these shear zones that have been traced for over a kilometre in strike length.

In Holes #15 to #20 inclusive, sections from 15 to 30 feet long contain semi-massive to massive hematite, specularite, chlorite, malachite, chalcopryrite with visible gold. The mineralized zones tend to be associated with more silicified, fine-grained to aphanitic andesites intercalated with pyroclastics. The samples are at the lab and management expects to receive the assay results shortly.

Graeme Sewell, a director of Canasia stated, "this project is now moving ahead at a faster rate than was anticipated based on the visible gold detected in some of the previous holes. With the results from these holes pending shortly, management is excited to receive the actual grades from the assays. Not only is this gold project moving forward, we anticipate that the drilling in Nevada with Kinross Gold will commence in September as well."

Bralorne Gold Mines receives permit approval

Bralorne Gold Mines Ltd. announced in October 2009 that it has received permit approval from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to commence a diamond drill program of 21 holes over 4200 meter on the unexplored portions of the Bralorn-King Gap, commonly known as the BK zone.

The purpose of the program is defined below:

1. Further define the BK vein above the 800 Level. A number of diamond drill holes were designed to test the vein above the sub-level currently being developed at the 575 Level and to test extensions to the east and west.
2. Test parallel structures such as the Alhambra vein and other inferred structures lying both south and north of the BK vein, above 800 Level. This will allow us to confirm the three new interpreted vein structures and test their resource potential.
3. Test for new structures extending from or between intercepts, in the under-explored BK Gap area above 800 Level and south of Alhambra structure.

The Bralorne mine is located 150 air miles from Vancouver.



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Connacher Oil and Gas Limited provide Algar update

Connacher Oil and Gas Limited announced that on October 16, 2009 a major milestone was achieved at the Algar construction site with the engineered lift of the two evaporator towers, which constitute part of Connacher's second 10,000 bbl/d steam-assisted gravity drainage plant at its Great Divide oil sands development project in northeastern Alberta.

Construction at the Algar project is proceeding on time and under budget at this time, with a target to complete the plant and tie in the associated seventeen SAGD horizontal well pairs in early April 2010. Thereafter, it will take approximately one month to commission the plant and steaming of the well pairs should start in May 2010 and last approximately three months before first production in approximately August 2010.

Alberta Oilsands Inc. announces increase in previously announced bought deal financing to \$10,350,100 million

Alberta Oilsands Inc. recently announced that it has reached an agreement with the syndicate of underwriters led by Canaccord Capital Corporation and including Scotia Capital Inc., Genuity Capital Markets, Raymond James Ltd. and Octagon Capital Corporation, in respect of its bought deal announced on October 21, 2009 to issue, on a bought deal basis, an additional 4,000,000 units. Under the amended terms of the financing, AOS has agreed to issue 12,778,000 common shares on a flow-through basis and 11,500,000 units for aggregate gross proceeds to AOS of \$10,350,100, subject to the receipt by AOS of all necessary regulatory approvals.

The terms of the previously announced over-allotment option have not been amended. Closing of the offering is expected to occur on or about November 17, 2009.

The securities offered have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or applicable exemption from the registration requirements. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of the securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful.

Alberta advances clean coal technology through carbon capture

The Alberta government and TransAlta Corporation are working together to kick-start a leading-edge coal-fired electricity generation plant that will capture and store up to one million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year.

"Perfecting technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired electricity generation will not only have a significant impact in Alberta, but it could help throughout North America and in developing nations like China," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "This project provides an opportunity for Alberta to be a leader in developing game-changing carbon capture technology that could be used around the globe."

The province has signed a Letter of Intent with TransAlta Corporation on Project Pioneer at the Keephills 3 plant west of Edmonton. The project will utilize leading-edge technology to

capture CO₂. The CO₂ will be used for enhanced oil recovery in nearby conventional fields, or stored almost three kilometres underground. Alberta's investment, through its \$2-billion Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Fund, will total \$431 million over the next 15 years. An additional \$5 million will be provided to the project to support front end engineering and design. The private partners are TransAlta, Capital Power and Alstom.

The Government of Canada is also contributing \$343 million toward this project through the Clean Energy Fund and the federal ecoENERGY Technology Initiative.

Mineral Hill Industries Ltd. acquires Lithium Brine Project

Mineral Hill Industries Ltd. announced in September 2009 that it has signed a letter of intent to acquire a 100 percent interest in the Chickadee Creek Lithium Brine Property, located approximately 200 kilometres west of Edmonton, Alberta.

The Chickadee Project consists of six permit applications covering approximately 135,000 acres prospective for lithium and encompassing known occurrences within formation waters.

The Chickadee Project is situated over the Devonian age Beaverhill Lake and the Woodbend (Leduc) carbonate reef complexes. Formation water brines are spatially associated with these two complexes and are known to contain anomalous concentrations of lithium. The property is directly adjacent to Channel Resources. Fox Creek Lithium Project as well as Sidon International Resources Corp's Lithium Project.

Lithium concentrations reported from the area are similar to those currently mined in Clayton Valley, Nevada. Chemetall-Foote Corp's Silver Peak operation, located in Clayton Valley, is the only lithium brine producer in North America and has been in operation since 1966.

Production at Clayton Valley was initially from brines that averaged 400 mg/l lithium. In 1998, production from Clayton Valley was reported at an average concentration of 160 mg/l lithium (Harben and Edwards, 1998).

"With the addition of the Chickadee Creek Lithium Brine Property alongside our three properties totaling approximately 2300 hectares of mineral spodumene located in the township of Figuery 32 kilometers northwest of Val-d'Or Quebec, Mineral Hill has a substantial presence in the lithium market," says Dieter Peter, President and CEO of Mineral Hill. **M**

"Perfecting technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired electricity generation will not only have a significant impact in Alberta, but it could help throughout North America and in developing nations like China."



Saskatchewan

Cameco named one of Canada's best companies to work for

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd recently congratulated Cameco Corporation for being named to the Financial Post's list of the Top 10 Best Companies to Work For in Canada.

"It is great to see a Saskatchewan-based company in the top 10 list of best private-sector employers," Boyd said. Cameco is one of only two Canadian mining companies to be recognized by the Financial Post in its October 21 issue."

The list profiles companies operating in Canada that are growing in terms of revenue growth and size of workforce and that offer exceptional working conditions and career advancement opportunities.

"Cameco is a leader in the minerals industry, one of Canada's leading employers of First Nations and Métis people, and a company focused on safety and training for its workers," Boyd said. "Recognition on this list is well-deserved."

Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan announces third-quarter earnings

Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. reported in October 2009, third-quarter earnings of \$0.82 per share, or \$248.8 million, compared to \$3.93 per share, or \$1.2 billion, in the same period last year. This result raised year-to-date earnings to \$2.45 per share, or \$744.2 million. The quarter-over-quarter decline reflects the continuing caution among fertilizer buyers around the world, which has negatively affected sales volumes and prices for all three nutrients.

"This quarter was a reminder of the contrast between long-term fundamentals and short-term uncertainties," said PotashCorp President and Chief Executive Officer Bill Doyle. "Even though the science of food production and fundamentals of global development dictate that more fertilizer, especially potash, is needed around the world, the impact of the global financial crisis remained a difficult hurdle in the third

quarter. The uncertainty among fertilizer buyers has lasted far longer than we anticipated, but cannot continue indefinitely. Our focus is on preparing for the demand rebound that we believe will inevitably follow. We will be ready to serve our customers and deliver returns for our investors."

Potash One Inc. announces completion of feasibility study

Potash One Inc. announced in October 2009 that it has commenced work on a feasibility study for its Legacy potash solution-mining project in Southern Saskatchewan. Potash One Inc. has re-engaged SNC-Lavalin Inc. of Montreal, QC to complete the study in cooperation with Potash One and other specialized consultants, which include Whiting Equipment Canada, Inc. a leading provider of evaporator and crystallizer technology to the potash industry.

Subsequent to the very positive results of Legacy's completed Pre-Feasibility Study as announced in June 2009, the company's engineering staff and consultants focused on reviewing project parameters and completing a number of key trade-off and optimization studies in preparation for the feasibility study. Feasibility engineering and procurement work started in August 2009 and, as of the current date, the project team is now mobilized and working through the planned report.

Paul F. Matysek, President and CEO of Potash One Inc., commented, "a bankable feasibility study is the next progressive step in the project development of Legacy. The initiation of our Feasibility Study is a continuation of the Company's long term strategic plans for the Legacy project to become the first new greenfield Potash mine in Saskatchewan in over 40 years. Our Management team has a proven track record for timely delivery and rigorous execution of our Project development plans and the completion of this final phase will position us head and shoulders above any other planned greenfield project in Canada in terms of

a thorough independent evaluation and clear development path."

New alliance between Startco Engineering and Littelfuse

Startco Engineering Ltd. recently announced a strategic alliance with the POWR-GARD division of Littelfuse. By combining Startco's Protective-Relaying Products and Custom Power Centers with Littelfuse's extensive portfolio of circuit-protection products and technologies, Littelfuse now offers customers comprehensive power-system protection and custom powercenter solutions.

For over 30 years Startco's products have been protecting people and critical equipment from dangerous and damaging ground-fault incidents. In addition, Startco's custom products have become critical components to the mining industry.

Littelfuse, a provider of circuit protection for over 80 years, provides the broadest circuit-protection portfolio in the industry that includes fuses, ground-fault relays and eight other protection technologies to improve the safety and reliability of electrical and electronic circuits. With the addition of Startco's comprehensive portfolio of protective relays and custom-design capabilities, Littelfuse is able to enhance its POWR-GARD product offering of electrical safety protection devices.

October land sale generates \$32.4 million

The October sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights has brought in \$32.4 million in revenue for the province, the largest sale of the year. Total revenue from land sales for the 2009 calendar year now stands at \$83.2 million.

"This shows we continue to be on the right track," Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd said. "Revenue from the October sale is over double that received from the August sale. This is a clear message from industry that Saskatchewan continues to be an attractive place to invest."

October's sale included three petroleum and natural gas exploration licenses that sold for \$3.8 million and 273 lease parcels that attracted \$28.6 million in bonus bids.



"Cameco is a leader in the minerals industry, one of Canada's leading employers of First

Nations and Métis people, and a company focused on safety and training for its workers."

Silver Fields receives Manitoba Quarry Exploration Permit

Silver Fields Resources Inc. recently announced the Manitoba Energy and Mines Branch has issued a Quarry Exploration Permit to the Company for its coal property located in West-Central Manitoba, in close proximity to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border. The permit is effective for a 3 year period and will allow Silver Fields to explore for coal over an area of 514 hectares.

The company will now include the Manitoba project in its exploration plans for the summer of 2010. Silver Fields is currently pursuing a private placement to carry out its drill program on the Old Channel Coal Exploration project near Tobin Lake Saskatchewan, and the Wapawekka Lake Coal Exploration project near Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan. The Tobin Lake property is joint-ventured with WestCan Uranium Corp and North American Gem Inc.

Rockcliff commences drill program at Snow Lake Project

Rockcliff Resources Inc. announced in October 2009 that drilling has commenced on its Snow Lake Project located in central Manitoba. A total of 2,500 m of drilling are planned in approximately 15 holes. Drilling is planned to focus on the Rail and Freebath properties where untested geophysical targets have been identified in recent borehole and DPEM geophysical surveys. The targets are associated with geological environments that are prospective for VMS mineralization. Once assay results are obtained from an accredited lab they will be distributed to the public.

Copper Reef Resumes Drilling at Gold Rock

Copper Reef Mining Corporation announced in October 2009 that Copper Reef has resumed drilling on the Gold Rock vein of our 100 percent owned Gold Rock - North Star Property near Snow Lake Manitoba.

The company, which last year drilled 79 HQ diamond drill holes into the north portion of the Gold Rock Vein, will drill an additional 30-35 HQ drill holes into the central and southern portions of the vein which have never been

Fast fact: The province's mineral and petroleum industries employ about 5,200 people directly and another 18,000 indirectly.

drilled. Following receipt of results from this current drilling, a second drill program is planned to commence after freeze up when swamps are frozen.

The new area of the vein being drilled is 200 m long and will be drilled with two tiers of holes at 10 m intervals. Samples assaying up to 3.96 oz gold/ton have been taken from old surface trenches in this vein excavated in the 1920's. The drilling will start south of DDH-08-32 which intersected 81.73 g/t gold over 1.6 m (core length) and work south covering the 200 m.

The Gold Rock vein length, from known exposures and drilling to the north, is at least 345 m (1131') long and open to the north and south beneath overburden. Previous drilling in 2008 outlined two zones approximately 200 ft (60m) long each in the northern 150 m (492 foot) long portion of the vein.

Coarse gold was intersected in over 50 percent of the holes drilled in this area. The Gold Rock vein lies along a quartz

veined shear 2 km long, with the North Star deposit at the south end and the Gold Rock Vein at the north end with very little drilling in between. Copper Reef has concentrated its recent drilling in 2008 and the current drilling programs on the high grade Gold Rock Vein.

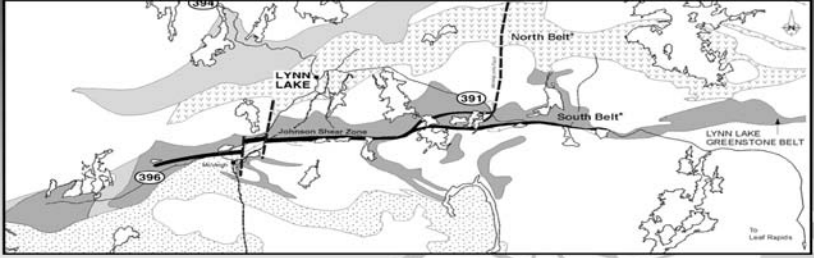
Copper Reef's website copperreef.com shows the relative location of these drill holes under the heading Gold Rock, as well as maps, photos and other information on Copper Reef.

Victory Nickel announces 43-101 Frac Sand Resource

Victory Nickel Inc. announced in September 2009 that a NI 43-101-compliant resource estimate completed by Wardrop a Tetra Tech Company confirms that a 15 million tonne indicated sand resource, of which approximately 84 percent is marketable frac sand, is contained in the footprint of the proposed open pit shell at the 100 percent-owned Minago nickel project in Manitoba.

It's important to remember that the sandstone layer is not confined to the Minago pit area, and that this resource estimate doesn't consider the potentially significant additional tonnage of frac sand that exists outside the open pit limits and which could conceivably be mined using conventional underground mining methods."

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This marketable frac sand resource of 12.6 million tonnes represents a 215 percent increase in tonnage compared with the November 2006 Preliminary Economic Assessment of the Minago nickel operation which considered only 4 million tonnes of sand to be within frac sand specifications. Frac sand, which is used to improve recoveries in the oil and gas industry, forms part of the overburden that must be removed before mining nickel from the Minago open pit.

"This resource estimate confirms the quantity of frac sand that will be available at Minago during development of the nickel open pit. It's important to remember that the sandstone layer is not confined to the Minago pit area, and that this resource estimate doesn't consider the potentially significant additional tonnage of frac sand that exists outside the open pit limits and which could conceivably be mined using conventional underground mining methods," said Steve Harapiak, President and COO. **M**

Mine Site Rehabilitation

Manitoba's environment will be greener as a result of \$42 million in provincial funding to support the cleanup of 18 orphaned or abandoned mines in the province, announced October 28, 2009. Manitoba began acting on orphaned and abandoned mines in 1999 with the introduction of mine closure regulations. Now, all mine closure plans and financial security must be filed and approved prior to a permit being granted for a new mine operation.



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Plant closing in Burlington

Sandvik Mining and Construction, one of the world's two largest manufacturers of drilling and underground loading and haulage equipment for the global mining sector as well as other mining equipment, plans to close its manufacturing plant in Burlington, Ontario.

The decision, it says, "follows a thorough assessment of the operation's future financial robustness, an alignment of the global manufacturing capacity and of addressing a number of projects critical to its long-run profitability."

Currently underground hard rock mining low profile LHDs, light trucks and underground soft rock rubber tyred vehicles are made there and it has been operating since 1981. The Burlington products, related R&D and engineering will continue and will be transferred to three existing factories in China, Australia and Finland.

The factory's decommissioning is scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2010 and affects all 114 of Sandvik's Underground Mining employees on site. The Sandvik Burlington Plant will work closely with

external support agencies and other Sandvik entities to minimise impacts to the employees located at the factory. All members of the workforce will be offered career management services and assistance in finding alternate employment within Sandvik or elsewhere.

The Sandvik Group remains a significant supplier in the North American mining industry and is committed to delivering a full line-up of Sandvik mining equipment with best-in-class quality, productivity and safety.

Resources Minister says Canada on "brink of vigorous mining recovery"

Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Lisa Raitt said much needs to be done in mining to boost Canada's competitiveness, improve environmental performance, support northern development, increase social responsibility, boost research and

innovation, and advance women in mining and its related professions.

In the inaugural meeting of the new Women in Mining Canada organization, Raitt told women mining professionals, "We're on the brink of a vigorous mining recovery in this country. This is going to open up new and exciting opportunities for women who want to make a difference in this industry."

"Given developments in the mining world today, it's especially important for women to encourage each other and advance their careers in this industry now," Raitt stressed.

Although the minister admitted it was too early to declare Canada's recession over, "it's evident that mining is on the road to recovery."

As proof, she noted that the prices of most minerals and metals have rallied,

"Given other companies' recent successes drilling gold targets at depth along the Destor-Porcupine fault, proposed drilling at Horwood will focus on testing the possibility of a deep-seated gold system."



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while during the third quarter, 26 Canadian mines were reopened or expanded production and 3,600 mining jobs were either created or reinstated.

Government looks to improving Ontario's Mining Act

The Act to amend the Mining Act (Bill 173) includes a number of progressive provisions, which will make Ontario a national leader in mineral resource stewardship, including:

- Incorporating aboriginal consultation in mining legislation and regulations;

- Introducing a dispute-resolution process for aboriginal-related issues in mining;
- Requiring awareness training to obtain a prospector's licence;
- Strengthening environmental considerations during mineral exploration;
- Creating an efficient, made-in-Ontario map staking system; and
- Protecting the property rights of private land owners who do not own their mineral rights.

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry will now begin

consultations with stakeholders to develop the regulations that will govern these new processes.

"These changes to Ontario's Mining Act offer a balanced approach to mineral development in Ontario that considers a range of interests while supporting a competitive economic climate for the minerals sector," said Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. In 2008, Ontario's mineral production was valued at more than \$9.6 billion.

Amador Gold Corp. announces proposed drilling plans on three Timmins Gold Projects

Amador Gold Corp. announced in September 2009 the proposed drilling plans on four of its Ontario properties. Three of the properties are gold and gold/base metal projects located in the Timmins area and one is a VMS project in north western Ontario.

"The company has focused on advancing a number of its projects to the drilling stage and we are happy to announce proposed drilling plans for four of these properties," commented Company President, Richard Hughes.

"We have spent the last year compiling data from numerous airborne surveys, geochemistry, VLF surveys, prospecting, mapping and sampling programs and have identified numerous targets on each property. The Horwood Gold property, for example, has numerous high-grade gold showings on surface across an approximate four square kilometres. Given other companies' recent successes drilling gold targets at depth along the Destor-Porcupine fault, proposed drilling at Horwood will focus on testing the possibility of a deep-seated gold system."

The proposed budgets for each program are as follows:

Horwood Gold Project: \$300,000

Kamiskotia Gold Project: \$200,000

Loveland Gold/Copper Nickel Project: \$300,000

Maskoosh VMS Project: \$300,000

Information for the each specific program will be made available in the near future. To view a map of the Company's property in the West Timmins Gold District click on the following link:

www.amadorgoldcorp.com/i/pdf/TimminsWest.pdf



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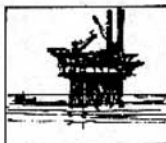
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Intent to acquire 100 percent of Chibougamau Mining Camp

Stellar Pacific Ventures Inc. announced in October 2009 that it has signed a Letter of Intent to acquire a 100 percent interest in a gold property in the Chibougamau Mining Camp, Northern Quebec.

The property is composed of 78 mining claims and cells covering an extensive area of 2,446 hectares or 24.46 km² in Rale Township, in Northern Quebec Chibougamau Mining Camp 50 km south-west of the town of Chibougamau. It is located west of the Joe Mann gold mine which has produced 1,253,869 ounces of gold since 1956 and in the vicinity of the Philibert and Chevrier gold occurrences with reported gold resources of 1.4 Mt. at 5.4 g Au/t and 1.8 Mt at 5.1 gAu/t respectively.

The highlights of the Monster Lake Gold Property are the numerous drill and surface gold intersections identified by Soquem along an extensive structure oriented NE-SW over a strike length of 3.6 kilometers. Gold is reported to be closely associated to quartz veins in sheared zones and visible gold was reported in drill core and on surface.

The property is accessible year round from Chibougamau by a major lumber road and by secondary lumber road that crosses the property. The property is a 30 minute drive from the Chibougamau regional airport which has flights daily from Montreal.

Stellar Pacific ventures can earn 100 percent of the property by paying the vendor \$125,000 and by issuing up to 750,000 shares over a period of 24 months. Stellar must also incur \$500,000 of exploration work over two years.

The company is currently conducting due diligence and will provide an update on the potential of the project at the execution of the Definitive Agreement, no later than November 28th 2009.

Plato Gold Commences Drilling at Nordeau-Bateman Project in Val-d'Or

Plato Gold Corp., an exploration company with a portfolio of properties in significant gold mining camps in northern Ontario, northern Quebec, and Santa Cruz (Argentina), announce in October that it has signed a drilling contract with Forage Val-d'Or Inc., of Val-d'Or, Quebec and has commenced drilling in its Nordeau-Bateman Project area.

Anthony Cohen, President and CEO of Plato Gold, stated, "we are very pleased to be drilling the Nordeau-Bateman Project, which we optioned from Globex Mining in 2006. Since that time we have developed the project from a historic gold deposit to a National Instrument (NI) 43-101 compliant gold resource. The current 6,000 metre drilling program will be directed at 3D-model generated targets. It is our aim, as we continue to advance this Project, to establish a significant NI 43-101 compliant gold resource in the Val-d'Or Gold Camp, one


of the world's best mining camps from a political, economic, infrastructure, and workforce standing. We are pleased to be using Forage Val-d'Or Inc., a very experienced drilling company with critical local knowledge. I am pleased with our prospects."

Drilling to start at Elder Gold Mine

Renaud Hinse, President and CEO of Abcourt Mines Inc., reported in October that Jean-Pierre Bérubé, geological consultant, recently completed a 43-101 resource report on the Elder gold mine (see press release dated July 28, 2009). At the 0.10 oz/s.t. (3.1 gram /s.t.) gold cut-off grade, the measured and indicated resources total 169,137 ounces and the inferred resources contain 46,722 ounces.

In his report, Bérubé states that, "the mineral potential of the Elder property is of sufficient merit to justify a two-phase exploration program."

In phase I, the mine will be dewatered and diamond drilling will be conducted on surface. In phase II, drifts will be extended east and west on four levels and diamond drilling will be done from these openings. Abcourt intends to start this program in the near future. It is expected that this drilling will increase the resources substantially.

Diamond drilling will also be done on the adjoining Tagami gold property to extend laterally and at depth, the high grade gold vein discovered in 1995-1996. 

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NEW BRUNSWICK

First phase of exploration completed on Benjamin River Rare Earth

Great Western Minerals Group Ltd. Reported in October 2009 that the first phase of exploration work is complete on its Benjamin River rare earth project in the province of New Brunswick. The program consisted of 36 line-km of ground magnetic and VLF-EM geophysical surveys on 50m line spacing. The results were successful in delineating a geophysical anomaly approximately 1,200m long and up to 200m wide. The anomaly coincides with known exposures of an apatite-diopside-magnetite vein that previous surface sampling has confirmed contains significant rare earth mineralization in addition to phosphate and iron.

The Benjamin River property consists of 491 mineral claims covering approximately 10,380 hectares.

The location of the project, near Bathurst, and the excellent infrastructure including rail, highways, power and ports enhances the economic aspects of the property.

Jim Engdahl, President and CEO of Great Western Minerals Group says, "it is important that we continue work on our heavy rare earth-enriched projects while advancing our more advanced core rare earth projects. These are the elements that are most likely to be in

short supply and are absolutely critical to many applications on which the world is becoming dependent."

NEWFOUNDLAND

Golden Dory announces fall drilling program at the Brady Gold Property

Golden Dory Resources Corp. announced in October 2009 that it has received exploration permits and government funding (Junior Exploration Assistance) to carry out diamond drilling on the 100 percent owned Brady gold project, 60 kilometers south of Grand Falls-Windsor, in central Newfoundland. The property hosts significant intrusion hosted gold mineralization at the Reid Porphyry zone which has returned significant historical (2003-2004) drill intercepts including 41.1 meters grading 1.1 grams per tonne gold (not verified by Golden Dory).

Silver Spruce reports discovery of Gold Zone - Rambler South Property

Silver Spruce Resources Inc. recently announced a new gold discovery on its Rambler South property, located on the Baie Verte peninsula of north central Newfoundland.

The company received approval from the TSX Venture Exchange for the option agreement on the property

on September 2 and a drill program started on September 9 (News releases dated July 16 and September 10, 2009). The drill program was designed to test the strong gold in till anomaly in the South Brook area and the Krissy, shear hosted, gold zone. The drill program ended September 23, with a total of 542 m in 7 holes (RS-09-1 to 5 and KT-09-1, 2) completed. The property totals 56 claims (1400 ha) and was optioned from Northeast Exploration Services, Krinor Resources Inc. and Peter Dimmell (PMD).


NOVA SCOTIA

Blue Note Mining mobilizes drill rig on Williams Brook Gold property

Blue Note Mining Inc. recently reported that it has engaged Logan Drilling of Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, to begin a 10-hole drilling program on Blue Note's Williams Brook Gold property located near Bathurst, New Brunswick.

The aim of this drill campaign is to further define the grade, frequency and geometry of gold-bearing quartz veins at the Williams Brook Gold property. Blue Note believes the best opportunity to add to shareholder value is to focus its fall exploration program on its 100 percent owned Williams Brook gold property in Bathurst, New Brunswick.

As news released on December 10, 2008, Blue Note made a significant gold discovery on its Williams Brook property in late 2008. Drill hole WB-08-11 returned 2.8 meters assaying 11.2 grams of gold per tonne including a half meter section assaying 24.1 grams of gold per tonne. The gold mineralization was intersected just 15 meters vertical from surface.

"Previous diamond drilling at the site was largely guided by geophysical trends. Recent stripping of overburden in the vicinity of known high grade gold occurrences has identified mineralized veins trending oblique to the typical geophysical patterns, so the earlier drilling hit some veins but missed others that occur nearby," stated Arthur Hamilton, P.Geo., Regional Exploration Manager. 

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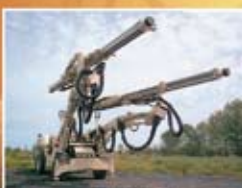



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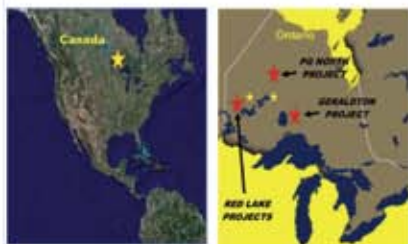


PREMIER

Gold Mines Limited

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With an estimated 100,000 metres of drilling expected from October 2009 to December 2010, **Premier Gold Mines Limited (PG:TSX)** is spearheading one of the largest exploration programs in Canada. Premier's goal is to discover, delineate and develop ore bodies in the heart of three separate gold mining camps in Ontario, a province that has produced several millions of ounces of gold and has been the birthplace of many major gold producers. The districts the company is focused on are Red Lake, Geraldton, and Musselwhite. Unlike most other Juniors that are exploring one marquis project, Premier has three that can each be potential "Company-Makers".

Red Lake

Premier has four projects in Red Lake, two joint ventures with Goldcorp (G) and one 100%-held property. The most active property in Red Lake is the Rathill-Bonanza Project, a 49%-PG and 51%-G joint venture, located along the main mine trend directly between the Bruce Channel discovery, which Goldcorp purchased for \$1.2 billion, and Goldcorp's Red Lake Gold Mines (RLGM). RLGM is considered to be the world's richest gold mine and has been the platform for Goldcorp's phenomenal growth. Premier's Lennie property (100% held) is located 3 kilometres northeast of, on the same unconformity as and in a similar geological setting as RLGM. Drilling at Lennie commenced in September 2009.

At Goldcorp's 2009 investor day presentation, they announced that the potential development of a high-speed tram to connect the Campbell mine with the Cochenour Mine as a part of the mine development of the Bruce Channel deposit. A straight line drive between Campbell and Cochenour would go directly through the joint venture ground, which will open this world class area up to exploration at depth. Furthermore, Dewatering has begun at Cochenour which could provide Premier underground access to the Wilmar mine as they are connected at the 13th level.



Hardrock (Geraldton)

Located along the Trans-Canada Highway, approximately 250 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, the Hardrock Project is Premier's main focus for 2010. Some 70,000 metres has been drilled to on this property to aid in the completion of a NI 43-101 compliant mineral resource estimate by Q4 of 2009. The drill program is designed to delineate resources in both open pit and underground areas. Drilling to date has exceeded Premier's expectations. There are tremendous infrastructure advantages to this property with Trans-Canada Highway, the Trans-Canada Pipeline, and a Hydro sub-station all nearby. The full service town of Geraldton sits three kilometres to the north, providing access to a large and capable work force. All of these factors combined would

significantly reduce Premier's capital expenditures and time required to develop a possible mine. Highlights of drilling on this property include 33.33 oz/ton (1141.54g/ton) across 6.6 feet (2.0m) in a new discovery located within close proximity of the historic mine workings.

PQ-North (Musselwhite)

This 100%-owned property is located on the same PQ-Limb and on-strike from Goldcorp's Musselwhite Mine. As Goldcorp mines the PQ-Limb towards the PQ North property they are discovering more deposits with increasing grade. Premier has hit two potential gold zones including 10.24 grams per tonne gold (g/t Au) across 5.1 metres (m) and 10.25g/t Au across 1.8m, both results significantly higher than Musselwhite's average production grade of 5.5g/t. Given this early success, Premier has significantly increased its budget at PQ-North and will continue exploring with two drills this winter.

A World of Opportunity.....

Premier Gold Mines Limited

* as at October 5/09

** shares outstanding include both September financings

Price:	2.70
52 week high/low (can \$):	3.00/1.05
Basic shares O/S (mm):	84.12
F/D Shares O/S (mm):	89.29
Average Daily Volume (000):	371
Market cap (mm):	227

Premier Gold Mines Limited (TSX: TPGI)
*** TPGI Data



Premier Gold Mines Limited (PG:TSX)

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