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Vananda expands Little Billie zone

VANCOUVER — A recently completed drilling program at the Little Billie mine on Texada Island in southern British Columbia has extended the mine's 1951 zone about 200 ft. below the former producer's old workings.

Property owner Vananda Gold (VSE) finished a 5-hole,

\$120,000-program, intersecting copper-gold skarn mineralization in four of the holes. As a result, preliminary reserves of 170,000 tons grading 0.21 oz. gold per ton and 1.5% copper are expected to increase.

The Little Billie mine operated between 1948 and 1952, and pro-

duced more than 60,000 tons of ore.

Vananda is drilling from surface to test the extent of the previously mined zone to depth.

The mineralization is a bor-nite-chalcopyrite within wollastonite skarn material. Hence, Vananda is assessing both the potential tonnage of wollastonite and its marketability. Wollastonite has a number of uses including paint fillers and as an alternative to asbestos in some applications.

Vananda has about four million shares outstanding and working capital of \$40,000. Stanley Beale, president, said the company is now reviewing options to finance further work on the property.

Results from the recent drilling program are as follows:

Hole	Width (ft)	Gold (oz./ton)	Copper (%)
T91-30	2.3	0.006	2.57
	3.3	0.064	0.88
T91-31	5.2	0.25	3.84
	13.1	0.37	2.50
	12.1	0.080	1.10
T91-32	7.2	0.15	1.84
	6.6	0.82	1.94
T91-33	68.2	0.29	2.45
	18.7	0.37	3.12
T91-34		no significant results	

Hendrick succeeds Parry as Minefinders' chairman

Toronto-based Minefinders (VSE) recently elected geological consultant Dale Hendrick as chairman to replace Ross Parry who died in February. The company has also named lawyer James Blake a director on its 5-member board which includes James Brown, Marc Henderson, Peter Jarvis and Hendrick.

In addition, the company has amended the terms of an agreement concluded last year with Malartic Hygrade Gold Mines (VSE) to allow Malartic to relinquish its right to earn a 50% stake in the Agar property near Miquelon, Que.

In return, Minefinders is reducing the amount owed to it by Malartic to \$150,000 from \$200,000 and extending the repayment date to Dec. 31 rather than July 31. The 20% net profits interest which Minefinders has retained on the Dubuisson Twp. gold properties in Quebec has been converted to a 2% net

smelter royalty.

According to Minefinders, Western Quebec Mines (ME) is initiating a \$250,000 underground program on the Dubuisson West property to explore the continuation of the ore-bearing structure discovered on the adjacent Joubi property.

Story 7 claim is cancelled

VANCOUVER — The Chief Gold Commissioner of British Columbia recently ordered the cancellation of the Story 7 claim, despite the recommendation of his mineral titles claim inspector who recommended dismissal of the complaint made against the Story 7 claim staking.

The claim is located east of the Eskay Creek property, and was held by Ecstall Mining (VSE) and Omega Resources (VSE). Tagish Resources, a private company which overstaked considerable ground in the Eskay Creek region, overstaked Story 7 on the basis of a section 35 challenge.

Ecstall President Chris Graf said the inspector's report stated that the Story 7 claim staker made a bona fide attempt to comply with the requirements of the Mineral Tenure Act and regulations, and recommended dismissal of complaint.

Evidence indicated that the legal corner post, three corner posts and 10 of the 14 required identification posts were established during the staking of the claim. About 4,600 metres of the required 9,000 metres of the boundary line were also established.

It is Ecstall's position that the order of the Chief Gold Commissioner is not supported by the evidence or recommendation of his claim inspector. The company intends to exercise its right to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

In his reasons for decision, the Chief Gold Commissioner said prevailing topographic conditions, lakes, rivers or glacial ice were not a factor which would have prevented the location of a claim in the area under summer conditions.

Jerome to merge with private firm

Jerome Gold Mines (ASE) and International Platinum Mining, a private Ontario company, have agreed to amalgamate.

Jerome, whose shares have been inactive since last year, has been reinstated on the ASE. Shares traded recently at 2¢.

International Platinum, which holds \$380,000 worth of share subscriptions, has applied for permits to explore the 325-square-mile Laura platinum property in Queensland, Australia.

If the amalgamation proceeds, Jerome shareholders will hold 15% of the new company while shareholders of International Platinum will control the remaining 85%.

To facilitate the amalgamation, Jerome's creditors have agreed to postpone \$277,000 in debt until at least March 31, 1992. When the amalgamation is complete, the debt will be converted to shares of the new company at 20¢ per share.

Charles McAlpine, Jerome's

Taseko undergoes preliminary study

VANCOUVER — A preliminary pre-feasibility study commissioned by Asarco (NYSE) calculated 10.4 million tons of minable reserves grading 0.582% copper and 0.022 oz. gold per ton on Westpine Metals' (VSE) Taseko copper-gold property 140 miles north of here.

This calculation makes up part of an overall *in situ* mineral inventory estimated at 11 million tons of 0.61% copper and 0.023 oz. gold, using a cut-off of 0.4% copper.

The study by Colorado-based James Askew Associates concluded that an open pit is preferable to an underground operation in terms of recovered reserves and

operating costs.

The 10.4 million tons of minable reserves were calculated for an open pit operation with a stripping ratio of 5.9-to-1. It uses a 10% dilution of *in-situ* reserves with a grade of dilution estimated at 0.2% copper and 0.015 oz. gold.

Previous work on the Taseko property identified three zones within the Empress area; Upper North, Lower North and 76.

A \$550,000 program is scheduled for May to further delineate these mineralized areas, and to test other targets on the property. This work is being funded by a unit of Asarco which has the right to earn a 60% interest in the property.

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