

Goldbelt continues development ^{N. Miner} of former producing B.C. mine ^{10/04/80}

VANCOUVER — Reopening old gold mines has become an exciting part of the Canadian mining scene and one company with a head start is Vancouver-based Goldbelt Mines.

Goldbelt has been working for three years now on rehabilitating its former producing mine near Salmo in southeastern B.C., which between 1938 and 1943 produced 81,910 oz. of gold from ore averaging 0.31 oz. of gold per ton.

About 20 people are currently working on the property and the company has tentative plans to build a 100 to 150-ton mill, President Don Carmichael tells The Northern Miner.

Development work to date has included replacement of ties, laying of 1½ miles of track, installation of air pipes and raising on the 3,500-ft. vein. Expenditures on rehabilitation work, including installation of hoists, purchase of three locomotives and mine cars, a diesel electric generator, compressor and other necessary equipment have amounted to approximately \$1.6 million.

A two-storey workshop complex has been refurbished and contains a mechanical shop, mine-dry, first aid room and office space.

In 1979 two 500-ton shipments of ore were sent to the Cominco plant at Trail, but the cost of treatment

and transportation reduced operating profit and contributed to the decision to build a mill on the site.

Estimated reserves in the 3,500-ft. vein in 1978 were 17,260 tons grading 0.439 oz. gold per ton in the probable and possible category. The 3,000-ft. raise has developed mineralization over a distance of 200 ft. above the 1,110-ft. level and is advancing in ore at the present time, Mr. Carmichael reports.

In recent work on the 3,500-ft. vein, the average grade of nine samples collected over a length of 158 ft. calculated to a 3-ft. width was 0.847 oz. gold per ton and 0.64 oz. silver, according to the consulting geologist.

Further exploration to expand existing reserves will be carried out this season, primarily on the 3,500, 4,600 and 4,800 veins. About 4,000 tons of ore is currently stockpiled on the property.

In addition, Goldbelt is negotiating to acquire a 100% interest in the nearby Sheep Creek Mines property. Subject to regulatory body approval, the agreement is expected to be finalized shortly and will be followed by a rehabilitation and dewatering program in the 1980 season.

An underwriting netting \$900,000 will be used to fund the program. The new financing is also subject to regulatory body approval.

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