

NORTH AIR MINE**PROPERTY FILE**

- by Ted Grove ?

LOCATION

The Northair Mine is situated on the west slope of Sproatt Mountain in the Callaghan Creek area, about 30 miles north of Squamish and 70 miles north of Vancouver.

The mine is reached by about 6 miles of gravel road from Highway 99 near McGuire.

EARLY EXPLORATION

Although close to Vancouver, the geology of the Callaghan Creek area was known only from a report compiled in 1917 by Charles Camsell who made a "Preliminary Study of the Geology along the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Between Squamish and Lillooet." Virtually nothing was known of the mineral potential west of the rail line except for the occurrence of several small low grade vein deposits which were carefully documented in Minister of Mines Annual Reports between 1925 and 1936. The heavy timber, thick brush and almost total lack of access roads combined with the heavy rainfall combined to keep this area remote and virtually unknown. Since the last reported work in the 30's no work on any mineral prospect in this area was reported until the Northair discovery.

MODERN EXPLORATION

Since the initial discovery of mineralization at Callaghan Creek in 1970, the geology of the general area has become somewhat better known through some limited regional work by the Geological Survey of Canada, and a considerable amount of detailed information made available through the activities of the exploration companies. Detailed geological studies of this promising mineral belt have also been made by members of the British Columbia Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources and by students at the University of British Columbia in part supported by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources. In addition to the mineral potential, the zone extending from Squamish to Taseko Lakes has been recently studied and explored by B.C. Hydro for its geothermal resource potential.

DISCOVERY OF THE NORTHAIR MINE

Credit for the work leading to the discovery of the Northair mineralization belongs to Dr. Mike Warshawski, a Vancouver dentist whose hobby is prospecting. He attended courses in Basic Prospecting and Geology in Vancouver during the winters of 1966/67 and 1967/68 in order to upgrade his interest with instruction in modern exploration methods. He initiated his prospecting program in the Brandywine area with reconnaissance stream silt sampling and after detecting an anomalous stream (now Anomaly Creek) contacted Mr. A.H. (Moose) Manifold, Geology Head at B.C.I.T. for assistance.

In 1970, these two partners outlined the anomalous area through the use of soil geochemistry and the location of mineralized float. and staked 13 claims to cover the area. In 1971, further trenching and sampling disclosed high gold and silver values in an outcropping quartz vein. These results attracted McIntyre Mines Ltd. which optioned the property in 1971 and performed a limited amount of work on the vein in 1972. Because of the apparent narrow width of the vein and the erratic metal values, McIntyre dropped the option. The property was then offered to Mr. Don McLeod of Northair Mines Ltd., who recognized the potential of the vein system. For Northair drilled 28 exploration holes on the vein in late 1972, the results of which upheld Mr. McLeod's optimism. On the basis of these results Northair collared the 3,700 foot elevation adit in May 1973.

MINE DEVELOPMENT

Since the basic exploration drilling in 1972 the property has been taken from the raw prospect stage to that of an operating mine in only five years, a long time for the developers, but a relatively short period in terms of British Columbia mine development.

The progress from prospect to mine followed through the implementation and application of systematic surface sampling, geochemistry, geophysics, diamond core drilling and geological interpretation to outline the vein structure and mineral potential. This preliminary work was followed up by a program of underground development on three levels to outline the mineralization through detailed sampling. As a result of this well planned and executed program, a sufficient tonnage and grade was outlined to advance the project towards completion and mine production.

In 1974, Northair purchased an existing concentrator from the defunct King Resources property, near Revelstoke and transported it to Vancouver for storage and modifications. Site preparations for the installation of the mill buildings and equipment proceeded in 1975 after a Production Permit had been obtained from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources.

On April 26, 1976 the concentrator was started up utilizing ore mined from the various development headings that had been stockpiled on the property. The preliminary mill testing showed that a capacity of 340 tons per day was possible on a continuing shift basis. Mill concentrates were first shipped on May 26, 1976 and a gold/silver brick poured shortly afterwards. Since then, additional construction and mine and mill development have continued to the point where continuous production from the Discovery, Warman, and Manifold ore zones and satisfactory mill operation has been assured.

#### ORE RESERVES AND CONCENTRATION RECOVERY

As of May, 1977 Northair reported an ore reserve totalling 330,637 tons with a grade of 0.396 oz. gold, 4.56 oz. silver, 2.72% lead, and 4.06% zinc. A concentrator recovery of 88 to 90% of gold, 75 to 80% silver, 85 to 90% lead, and 80 to 85% zinc has been achieved from the complex ore and is considered satisfactory.

Further metallurgical studies to increase recovery rates, and an expanded exploration program to outline new ore reserves are currently underway.

#### SYNOPSIS

The Northair Mine was discovered by a prospector in an area ignored because of its lack of known mineralization and its remoteness. The mine has been developed by a junior British Columbia based company in spite of prolonged negotiations over various permits and problems in raising the necessary funds.

The producing mine will employ 100 people and will help stabilize the economy of the Squamish-Brackendale area.

The current success of this venture has helped stimulate mining exploration in the general area and has shown that there is still a place for the small underground gold mine.

NOTICE AND COMMENTS RE: EXPLORATION  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHAIR MINE

The official opening of the Northair mine is to be held June 11, 1977 about 7½ years from initial prospecting.

This is the first new mine to open in British Columbia in the last five years and is the first new gold-silver mine to open since the late 1930's, and is the only operation underground gold mine in the province at the present time.

The Northair Mine is a new discovery, found in an area which had a presumed low potential. The success of this find has revitalized exploration in the area from Squamish, north to Taseko Lake and east to Harrison Lake.

The company responsible for bringing this discovery from a raw prospect to a producing mine in only five years is a British Columbia junior mining company, funded in large part through shares issued through the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

The individuals responsible for this project are British Columbia residents who have gained their experience largely in British Columbia mining and exploration.

The Northair Mine will directly employ 100 persons:

75 - underground

20 - mill

5 - Vancouver office

and will contribute significantly to the economy of the Squamish-Brackendale area through sales services and taxes. Of these employees, fifty will house their families in Squamish.

NOTE: As a token of appreciation to the municipalities of Squamish and Brackendale, Mr. McLeod, on behalf of Northair Mines Ltd. will present (at the opening) a cheque for \$2,000.00 to support the new Sports Centre.

Northair officials and employees present at the opening June 11, 1977 will include:

Mr. Don McLeod - President

Mr. A.H. Manifold - Director and co-discoverer

Dr. M. Warshawski - co-discoverer

Mine staff will include:

Mr. Plen Dickson - Manager and Chief Geologist  
Mr. Peter Bouma - Mill Superintendant  
Mr. Harry Skoglund - Mine Superintendant  
Mr. Wayne Ash - Chief Engineer  
Mr. Ray Scheerschmidt - Planning Engineer