

# ATLIN NEWS

25¢



## MINER REPORTER

Vol. 1, No. 1, The Atlin News Miner Reporter, Wednesday, February 27, 1980

### We're Back

By TOM KIRKWOOD

It was with reluctance that back on October 17th-1978 Vera and I decided to make the main headline on Vol. 7 No. 6 of the Atlin News Miner as follows: "This Is The Last Issue Of The Atlin News Miner". Five days a month and lack of sufficient financial support along with publishing difficulties made the paper's continuance impossible. However in our final article we wrote; "Perhaps at some future date an opportunity may present itself so that the Atlin News Miner may once again be revived."

Opportunity has knocked! so here we are.

Ever since that last issue we have had many requests to start the paper again. During the past two weeks the requests have been steady. Thus we have given it much thought.

You will note the reduction in size of the Reporter from the twelve pages we use to print to the present four pages issue. Time wise this mini issue makes it feasible to fit a monthly issue into our busy schedule. It also makes it feasible to finance without any subsidy from the Whitehorse Star, who substantially subsidized the Atlin News Miner for over six years so that Atlin could have its own newspaper.

ADVERTISING is extremely limited as you will note. The Atlin Businesses with the two

Whitehorse firms, General Enterprises Ltd. and Hougens Department Store are guaranteeing the printing costs of the paper. Their ads are minimal in relation to the dollars they are providing so that there is maximum news space in the four page edition. At this point we wish to thank these businesses for so generously supporting the Atlin News Miner Reporter.

The CONTENT of the Atlin News Miner Reporter will be much in keeping with the material and format of the Atlin News Miner. All Atlin organizations are invited to give reports of their meeting and activities for publication. Length of articles may be limited because of our limited four page space which as to cover all community activities. We welcome anyone who wishes to supply material such as articles and columns provided that they are Atlin oriented as well as being for the good of the community. Again space must be considered.

The DISTRIBUTION of the Atlin News Miner will be done as simply as possible so as to alleviate as much as possible the work that is involved.

Copies of the Atlin News Miner Reporter will be available at all Stores and Services for 25 cents with the money from their sale going to a Atlin community project which has yet to be

chosen by the Atlin Businesses supporting the paper financially. Thus the Atlin News Miner Reporter will be totally community oriented.

For OUT OF TOWN DISTRIBUTION we are suggesting the following procedure. For relatives or friends of those living in Atlin, we would appreciate having the paper sent to them by those Atlinites. For all others who were on the Atlin News Miner Subscription list Vera and I will mail them a copy of the first issue. For these people to receive the ongoing publications we request them to send us twelve self addressed envelopes, stamped if in Canada or with the equivalent of \$2.25 for stamps if they live outside Canada. In this manner they will receive their copy by first class mail. As their is no subscription rate, persons receiving the paper in this manner may make a contribution to Atlin Community project funded by the paper, if they so wish.

We hope the Atlin News Miner Reporter will live up to your expectation — at least we will do our darndest to try.

Finally, if you are wondering why we have started publishing the Atlin News Miner Reporter at this time when there is already another publication in the district please read my column, "COMMENT".

## Open Forum On Adanac

About 100 Atlinites attended a meeting with representatives of Placer Development Ltd. and their Consultants, in the Atlin Recreation Centre on the evening of January 17, 1980. The meeting discussed the proposed development of the Adanac property at the head of the Ruby Creek valley in the Surprise Lake area some twenty-five miles east

of Atlin into a producing molybdenum mine. The forum was coordinated by the Board of Trade and was chaired by its president, Mr. Ted Kent.

Mr. Tony Triggs, Manager of Engineering for Placer Development Ltd., headed the company's delegation. The B.C. Department of Municipal Affairs was represented by Robin

Addison.

Placer Development, in a previous meeting last fall with representatives of the Board of Trade, Atlin Community Association, the Local Improvement District and the Placer Miners Association, had distributed to each organization a series of preliminary studies of the mining proposal, Environ-

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### NEXT ISSUE:

Articles we can't get in this issue

- \*B.O.T. & Airport Reports
- \*Rec Centre Report
- \*Bonspiel Reports
- \*Atlin & Tourism

Join in the Fun of  
**FUN DAYS**

## Atlin Broadcasting Society Report

In the last issue of the October 17-1978, Atlin News Miner (almost a year and a half ago,) the society gave its last report. At that time we were waiting for the completion of the new CBC building on Grey Mt. south of Whitehorse in which the STL Link for the FM was arranged to be installed. Our hopes were that within a short time the system would finally be completed.

That hope was to be far from reality. A year and a half later we are still not complete. However we now know that the day that the TV and FM systems are complete is not too far off.

When the Directors took on to get TV and FM rebroadcast signals of Whitehorse CBC into Atlin we stated emphatically that we would not accept the system until we were fully satisfied we had brought Atlin the best possible reception; and we are not yet satisfied.

After the CBC building at Grey Mt. had been completed Crowder Communications Ltd. started giving excuses as to why the STL had not arrived. Finally after phone calls etc. they said that the system was complete however they would supply the STL but we would be responsible for the installation. They also said that they would not guarantee that it would solve the poor reception of the FM in Atlin.

At that point the Directors took over the completion. Tom Kirkwood, Chairman, has been making the arrangements. The STL was installed and resulted in clear strong signal. However during the summer we were plagued with the signal dropping out and later coming on again. This turned out to be over heating. So a thermostat, that we had requested Crowder to install without success, was put in so the heater was off at a max. temperatures of 50 degrees. The overheating problem was solved.

When the last Crowder crew left Atlin after a day working on the TV we still has herring bone interference with the picture. The Audio was still defective. We had

Total North Communication Ltd. try numerous ideas to clear it up without success. Crowders had indicated that we would have to live with the defects.

Last October we had the final inspection by the DOC and the BC Communications Branch. This resulted in Dave McNaughton and the DOC, Yukon Manager Ian Rutherford spending a weekend in Atlin During which time they worked on the Atlin site. They moved the FM transmitting antenna some hundred feet from its location with a cluster of all antennas on top of the building. (The directors had requested Crowder Communications to do this shortly after the installation. We were informed it was unnecessary and would not help.) They made other tests and adjustments which resulted in a steady background and clear picture. The Inspection Reports are not yet completed.

This winter we have had FM signal failure. (Having compared) The temperatures with the failures it is now felt that the FM has a fairly narrow temperature range to work in. What we feel is that there is not enough heat with one heater on top of White Mountain, where say at 30 degrees below zero with high wind chill factor the one heater and four inches of insulation cannot keep the 6x8 ft. equipment

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# COMMENT Fun Days March 14 & 15

By TOM KIRKWOOD

With this issue, the Atlin News Miner Reporter is a fact and will continue in this mode until such time as when it will be financially feasible to expand it into a newspaper of its own entity such as the past Atlin News Miner was for over six years.

The question which will be in many readers' minds as to why we have brought the Atlin News Miner Reporter into being at this time when there is another publication being printed in the Atlin District must be answered and clarified.

Ever since we ceased publishing the Atlin News Miner on October 17th, 1978 we have had many requests to start the paper again. These requests had been sufficient in number to have caused us to consider putting the paper out four times a year. Discussions had indicated that we could accomplish the idea by making it a supplement to the Whitehorse Star. (It is because of these negotiations and ideas that we have been able to come out with the Atlin News Miner Reporter so quickly, as all the ground work had been done). As we were going on holiday in October we had decided to leave it until after our return to commence publication.

If my memory serves me correctly, Janiel Johnson came to us in September of last year, to inform us that she was intending to start a newspaper and asked for advice. We told her that we were considering starting the Atlin News Miner again but that if she was going to go ahead we would certainly drop our intentions, which we did.

Since then five issues of the Atlin Rag Times has been published. To a great many people in Atlin it has not filled the need of a community newspaper. So far it has catered to only one political party and to one local organization, The Atlin Community Association. Personally I have submitted copies of letters which were in answer to the Passerat letters that appeared in the Atlin Rag Times. These were not printed. I have written a letter to the editor. This was not printed. I submitted a column "Perspective". It was not printed. The Board of Trade submit-

ted material. That was not printed.

In the last issue of February there appeared an article entitled, "Interview With Tom Kirkwood", by Terry Markley. It was about uranium, radiation and Adanac. I was never asked to give an interview on these subjects. Over three months ago Mr. Markley approached Vera and I and asked if he could come to our home some evening and interview us on why we came to Atlin and what our association with the town was. He had a tape recorder so he would not have to rely on notes and memory. We told him everything from day one which of course included Adanac as well as our approach to radiation etc. Out of this Mr. Markley has taken the material for his article out of context for an interview that was given for an altogether different request. I have noticed and heard of other similar instances being done in the Times. This type of journalism in my estimation is not justifiable no matter how urgent one may deem it to accomplish a goal.

Since the publication of the February edition of the Atlin Rag Times we have had many queries as to when and if we would start the Atlin News Miner up again. We talked to the businesses. At this time of writing fourteen have given us a guaranteed support for the first year as we are requesting. This support together with the requests of local people has been sufficient to direct our decision.

You now have the ATLIN NEWS MINER REPORTER.

### A POSSIBILITY

With the publication of the Atlin News Miner Reporter as a four page issue it can be used as a brochure to advertise Atlin in such places as Skagway, Whitehorse, Dawson Creek, etc. Particularly during the summer months we can cover the Atlin District with articles and pictures to interest the tourist. We can get additional copies very reasonably.

This is a POSSIBILITY the businesses individually as well as the Board of Trades should give serious consideration to.

## About Town

By IRENE COLEMAN

Trying to keep up with people about town especially in Atlin is a challenge.

Really nice to see JIM WALLIS almost recovered from his injuries sustained last fall. DAVE GOODWIN is a happy man as well, Dave now has the cast off of his heel. Dave broke bones in his heel last October when he had to make a quick jump from his truck, the quick thinking on Dave's part saved his back and head.

The MACKENZIES had Shirley's sister and brother here

over Christmas, Beverly and Archie Harrold. Archie returned for school, Bev stayed on for another month.

We have newcomers in our town, we extend a warm welcome to JOHN and ROSE BYRNE, children Marie, Michelle and Jerry. John and Rose have taken over the Standard station from Ted and Betty Kent.

ED and MAUREEN BROOKS with sons Gordon and Kenny have purchased the Gordon Odian house. Ed has joined Highways Dept. as cat operator. The Brooks came north from Bob Quinn Lake. RENE and KITTY

On February 9th the Rec Centre Executive with other interested members laid the foundation for the Annual Atlin Fun Days. Tom Kirkwood is chairman of the committee which is still in flux of formation. To date Rick Stevens is involved as co-chairman; Leah Nielson has

volunteered to get the CAN CAN girls together. Joanne Erickson and Brenda Wallis have joined her so they are still looking for a fourth; Bobby Walan with the students at the Northern Lites have volunteered to put on a skit from Robert Service; John Wright has volunteered to

organize the start and finish of the events on the ice. The Discovery Nursery School will man the concession at the Rec Centre on McLaren Nite. We are in hopes that we will have a Atlin Fun Days Queen with her princesses; Ron Boden and Jack Green are organizing their fun making singing troupe.

Friday Nite — McLaren Nite will be lots of fun with gambling, ribbons for the best junior and adult costumes; entertainment galore with a concession, popcorn and club room to complete it. So get in gear — join in the fun. If you want to be part of the action get in touch with Tom and he'll steer you right into the thick of it where the real enjoyment is. Saturday the 15th. Competition on the ice in front of the Atlin Inn. There will be a concession and a fire to warm up by. The action will be steady from 12 noon until 5 p.m. This year there will be no banquet. The Trappers Ball will be from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. The club room with chill will be open on Saturday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Let's make it a real bang up FUN event!

## Mining & Uranium in the Surprise Lake Area

By JIM WALLIS

The Surprise Lake batholith is an alpine granitic mass approximately 25 miles in diameter and roughly circular in shape. Attention has recently been focused on this batholith as the result of a water and soils sediment survey undertaken by the B.C. Department of Mines. The survey shows that generally all waters and sediments sampled within the boundary of the batholith contain higher than normal background amounts of radiation. This is not a unique situation. The rocks of the earth's crust are made up of minerals containing all the natural elements, including uranium. All granites have an excess of radioactivity that can be readily detected over most other rock types. This radioactivity is primarily due to minute amounts of the element uranium. Uranium has an affinity for potassium rich feldspar which is one of the main components of all granite.

The rock formations of the earth's crust are continuously subjected to the chemical and mechanical processes of weathering and erosion. These processes break down the rock, releasing the component rock forming minerals which are carried away by water or erosional methods. The less resistant minerals break down.

In granite, the potassium feldspar breaks down into waters and tends to be removed by solution; as a result it shows up in some ground water sources.

It is significant that the waters of Atlin Lake and most of the surrounding streams show only trace amounts of uranium. Uranium levels in these waters supplies are as low or lower than those in large centers such as Vancouver, Prince George, and Prince Rupert; and are well within established health standards. The obvious questions are: How can this be? and What happens if a molybdenum mine is developed within the batholith. We already know that the batholith contains a higher than normal background in radioactivity.

The answer is very straightforward. Since the bulk of our water sources are rainfall and snow, its acidity is extremely low. As a result, the batholith releases very little uranium due to leaching by acid ground water. Similarly, mining within the batholith will have virtually no effect on the release of uranium providing that the pH of the mine tailing water is kept high. Any uranium held in the feldspar will stay locked up in the sediment in the tailings pond in exactly the same form and concentration it is held in the granite.

LLOYD are newcomers from Spokane, Wash. Rene and Kitty are living in Arnold and Pam's large house near the Rec Centre.

The JOHN WRIGHTS welcomed a new baby daughter and sister for Lucas, Kyla Julia Marie arrived early in January. SLIM and MARJ LOKEN have gone back to Inuvik for several months, they drove the Dempster Highway with three other vehicles and made the trip in good time. CATHY FOSTER is off to visit her mom in Portland, Oregon. Cathy and little Terry will leave in March. LOREN and PHYLLIS SEX-

TON are back from their three weeks holiday in sunny Hawaii. The PETRARS have also returned from visits with Heidi's and Bryan's parents in Alberta. WIN ACHESON is now enjoying a visit with old friends in Vancouver and points south. Win left Feb. 8th and will return the latter part of March. ARTHUR, NANCY, RACHEL and JOSH MITCHELL are packing their suitcases ready for three weeks in sunny Hawaii.

RANDY and GAY SAUGSTAD have left for lower B.C. The Saugstads were here for a few months. Randy was with Keystone Hillicopters.

## A.B.S.

### Cont'd from front

building warm enough. To install another heater an electrician will have to do it as additional electrical distribution outlets are necessary. As it costs approx. \$400.00 for each visit to White Mt. due to helicopter time we are waiting for an appropriate moment when a helicopter is going that way or we have a breakdown.

Such costs and the goodness of volunteer assistance has caused delays in making the necessary changes.

The radio telephone interference we experienced last month was due to a unit in the Jakes Corner area going off frequency. This has been rectified. There appears to be some distortion at times but at this moment DOC has not located it. Our equipment appears to be OK.

In the next issue of this paper we will be announcing a general meeting of the ABS. to be held in the latter half of March. One of the main items to be discussed is how to raise the ongoing costs of the system and pay for the power over the past two years. A full financial statement will be presented. We will use the Rec Centre as a large attendance should be present as both radio and TV are involved in the monthly power bill of approx. \$120.00 per month fund for which must be arranged if the system is to continue to operate.

By that meeting we trust that we will have the system working to our satisfaction so the ABS can assume ownership.

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# A New Look for the Rec Centre

By PAM EDZERZA

January 1980 signalled the start of a new decade and hopefully a new and more positive era in Rec Centre participation and organization. At the annual general meeting, members decided that something must be done about the increasing amount of rumblings and grumblings of anti-Rec Centre sentiment in the community and hopefully at the same time increase involvement and take some of the load off the presently too few people active in trying to keep the Centre going. A new steering committee was set up to ascertain just what the problems are and suggest ways and means to rectify them and increase participation. The committee were asked to come up with a contingency plan or at least some suggestions as to how the Rec Centre should develop over the coming years particularly if Placer Development go ahead with their plans to develop the Adanac Property. Committee members are Christine Dickinson, Rick Stevens, Carol Florence, Dick Sniegocki, Jim Smallwood, Shirley McKenzie, Pam Edzerza, Tom Kirkwood, plus the present executive officers. The committee have had their first meeting and agreed that they must try to be completely open minded and listen to all criticism and complaints without becoming defensive. Hopefully most of the criticism will be constructive and accompanied by lots of positive suggestions.

The committee have heard only echoes of the complaints so far. The more prevalent are that there is a lack of variety of activities at the Centre, that certain people are too possessive of the Centre, that the Rec Centre is money hungry and the Rec Centre does nothing for the kids. With considerable justification the present few active club members claim that they cannot find time to put on more events and need others to come forward and organize additional activities; that after devoting so much time and effort to cleaning, maintaining and running the Centre with little help and less thanks they naturally feel protective towards it; that the Rec Centre must make money to survive and that the Rec Centre does in fact sponsor a number of events for the town's youngsters including regular curling, gun club, Xmas concert, nursery school, Family and School Bonspiels, use of the library and of course Fun Days and July 1st activities which are enjoyed by children and adults alike. In addition the facilities are used for school activities.

The committee decided to send a letter and questionnaire to all Atlin area residents asking for constructive criticism and suggestions for improving the Rec Centre. In addition a regular newsletter detailing activities, problems, financial situation, volunteer ef-

to all members.

Other suggestions were — 1. Family Membership Rates 2. Special advance prices on dance tickets and bar tokens for members 3. Hire a part time janitor 4. Hire a Rec Centre co-ordinator to spearhead, organize and publicise events, book the hall and generally supervise the Centre. These last two suggestions of course would pose the problem of raising more funds to cover wages. Perhaps opening the bar more often and having more activities and more participation would help defray these costs but inevitably the price of most activities would have to increase. Perhaps a better idea would be for more people to come out and join the Centre and run additional activities. What do you think?

- Did you know: —
1. That while some funding was supplied by Government for labour to construct the Centre most of the materials were purchased with a bank loan co-signed by Rec Centre members and subsequently repaid through fund raising activities?
  2. That it cost \$17,700 to cover maintenance and operating costs last year and the Centre only took in \$15,000? In addition \$3000 was spent on building and equipment.
  3. That a considerable amount of labour during and since construction and even some LIP wages were donated back to the Centre?
  4. That the Rec Centre must pay its way, there are not gov't grants or funds supporting it?
  5. That the Rec Centre is not a rich organization, it has about \$15,896 on hand?
  6. That Rec Centre books may be examined by members, just ask the Treasurer?
  7. That the Rec Centre dues must be a minimum of \$10 per adult member in order to comply with Liquor Licensing Board regulations?
  8. That there have been minor problems with vandalism and theft in the past. There is just no way such a valuable asset to our community can be left open and unsupervised?
  9. That the Centre is available for groups of members to use free of charge at anytime, just check with the Secretary to book the hall or ensure that it is not in use.
  10. That no charge is made to the library for use of the room downstairs?
  11. That there is a pool table, badminton equipment, etc. available for members to use. Additional equipment would be purchased if there appears to be enough interest?
  12. That we want you to join Rec Centre and help make it a real community asset?

## Open Forum On Adanac

### Cont'd from front

mental Impact, and Social Impact on the community of Atlin of the proposed Adanac Development.

During the first hour of the meeting company and consulting representatives reviewed these studies so as to familiarize the Atlinites present with the multitude of detail.

The ACA started off the discussion period with their brief, presented by Ted Coe. The presentation was lengthy and attacked every phase of the proposals. The final ACA requirements listed in the brief for the Adanac Property to be put into production, if met by the company, would make the project untenable. Mr. Coe also mentioned the point that the ACA had 55 members whereas the BOT had only twenty thus indicating that the ACA represented the people of Atlin. ACA members applauded the presentation.

Out of the discussion it became evident that all Atlinites were opposed to the proposal of

the disposing of raw sewage effluent from a primary sewage plant into Atlin Lake. The meeting was informed that another sewage study for Atlin had been instigated last spring by several businesses and was presently being conducted by James F. McLaren & Associates Ltd., of Edmonton. It was suggested that this proposal may well proved to be an acceptable alternative.

The dam to retain the tailing in the upper Ruby Creek valley was also of general concern. The company was asked to make sure that the structure would be built strong enough and high enough to guarantee against any future escape of tailing into Surprise Lake.

There was considerable discussion by several ACA members on radio activity. Tony Triggs, the Company representative, pointed out that at first the company had not considered radio activity, but once the subject had been

brought to their attention the tested the waste rock and tailing from the 11,000 ton test carried out in conjunction with a 100 ton test mill by Kerr Addison in 1970.

The material for this test came from underground workings which lie in the area designated for the proposed open pit area. The assays showed that uranium exists in values varying from two parts per million to approximately thirty parts per million, values that indicate only a trace of uranium. He also stated that the drilling results were being tested for radioactivity, approximately 700 assay returns to date are being tabulated so that the grid system of drilling will show any concentration of radioactivity if it does exist. During these discussions Jim Wallis, local mining consultant, explained the existence of the radio activity in the rock formations of Surprise Lake and showed that it is not as serious by any means as has been indicated by the ACA.

The damming of Surprise Lake for the hydro development was stated as being essentially the same as was done in the early 1900s. The new dam will be of the same height, thus there will be no timber lands flooded.

ACA representatives carried out a lengthy discussion on the wild life of the upper Ruby Creek valley area and criticized the method of animal count that was carried out by the consultants. Dick Bond, who has flown Conservation Officers on numerous animal count surveys, stated that the consultants had used the same methods as utilized by the B.C. Wildlife Department.

It was evident that a few persons are indeed very concerned about radioactivity, but most of who oppose the development of Adanac appeared to be more concerned about the influx of population, they feel that tripling Atlin's population will interfere with their way and values of life.

When Tom Kirkwood stated

## Atlin Community Association Executives Meet

On February 9th the executive of the Atlin Community Association and the Atlin District Board of Trade held a meeting in the Atlin Public Library Room.

The meeting was requested by the A.C.A. upon having received correspondence from the B.O.T. regarding the fact that the word "Community" in their name was misleading the press etc. into considering the group as representing the community of Atlin and that some steps be taken to rectify the situation.

Present at the meeting were Louie Verlinden, who acted as chairman, Charlie Binnie, Wayne Merry, Jeniel Johnson and Julian Dromlewicz representing the ACA.

President Ted Kent, Elizabeth Clarke, Loren Sexton, Jim Wallis, Pam Edzerza, Tom Kirkwood, George Clarke and Arthur Mitchell, Dick Boad represented the BOT.

Discussions were confined to the name, constitution and by-laws of the ACA.

Ted Kent was principal spokesman for the BOT. He pointed out that as long as the ACA by-law contained the clause that membership application acceptance was subject to the approval of the Directors then the Association was not a Community organization. He suggested that the ACA drop the "Community" word from their name if they wished to keep a selective membership. However he suggested that if they changed the membership requirements so that any resident of Atlin or District could become a member of the ACA without any other requirements then the BOT had no objection to the present name. He stated that in fact the BOT would be very happy with this course of making the ACA a truly Community organization. He said that the BOT would immediately hand over a fully developed camp ground, the break water boat basin and the Harper Reed Wharf to the ACA so as the BOT could return to its proper status of representing business.

that if items such as the disposal of sewage is done in accordance with government requirements and regulation he, for one, supported the development of the Adanac property into a producing mine, there was strong applause which showed that the ACA brief presented at the beginning of the discussion session did not reflect the attitude of a good portion of the Atlinites present.

One item of interest to the Atlin Community was introduced by Robin Addison of Municipal Affairs. She indicated the possibility of a Planning Advisory Committee, which if the mine became a reality, would have a certain amount of funding.

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