

The Ericksen - Ashby Mine

ALTHOUGH forced into a premature conclusion of its first summer of exploration on Mount Ericksen near Tulsequah, B.C., by failure of the water supply which it had been hoped would last at least through September, Ericksen-Ashby Mines Ltd. reports positive results in both the surface and underground exploration programmes. Mapping during 1963 had indicated two general areas of mineralization called the upper showings which occur at an elevation of about 4,000 ft. and the lower showings which occur at an elevation of about 3,200 ft. Evidences of mineralization occur along a strike length of 3,000 ft. including the two main showings.

A new zone was discovered at an elevation of about 2,500 ft. in an area of covered ground to the North-East of the adit portal. Preliminary sampling shows gold 0.02 oz., silver 9.1 oz., lead 3.29%, and zinc 3.49%. Because of the heavy overburden and the folding and faulting in the area, lengths and widths are difficult to estimate.

The underground programme, which was based on the 1963 plane-table survey, was designed to provide drill setups to test the downward extension of the upper showings, due to the steep, rugged surface of Mount Ericksen which topography was thought to preclude attempts at surface drilling of these showings. The tunnel, which was to be driven in the hanging wall rocks for a distance of 500 ft., encountered two zones of mineralization, one in the tunnel itself and another a short distance in the hanging wall near the end of the tunnel.

At 120 ft. from the portal, the tunnel crossed a fault and for the next 127 ft. was in mineralized chert breccia. The drift had been designed primarily as a contract line drive, for drill sites for a large diesel wireline diamond drill which was the only drill available. A smaller machine, suited to exploration of the lateral and vertical extent of the mineralization encountered in the drift, which

was greater than drift width, was not available this year. Muck samples from cars and chip face samples indicate an estimated grade for the shoot of 0.01 oz. gold, 10.3 silver, 3.43% lead, and 7.84% zinc.

A large diamond-drill station, to accommodate wireline holes at various angles was slashed out at the end of the tunnel, 465 ft. from the portal. Drilling to the footwall, below the surface outcrop of the northwest end of the upper showings, failed to cut sulphide, and when two holes had been driven it appeared that faulting could have displaced the greenstone-sediment contact a minimum of 160 ft. The drill was turned around and cut a second mineralized shoot a short distance into the hanging wall. It seems almost certain that this is the same break which was first encountered in the tunnel and turned into the right wall on a small fault at 247 ft. from the portal.

The shoot, which strikes southeast, was explored with five holes. Hole U-4, most northwesterly, gave 0.8 ft. of 0.05 oz. gold, 7.4 oz. silver, 0.94% lead and 0.30% zinc. At 36 ft. southeast along strike, hole U-3 gave 0.7 ft. of 0.10 oz. gold, 10.8 oz. silver, 5.48% lead, 9.98% zinc, and 0.06% cadmium. Again at 16 ft. southeast along strike from U-3, hole U-5 gave 1.3 ft. of 0.02 oz. gold, 6.3 oz. silver, 2.45% lead, and 25.20% zinc. The cadmium assay from this hole has yet to be reported. At 26 ft. southeast from hole U-5, along strike, U-6 gave 3.8 ft. of 0.02 oz. gold, 28.1 oz. silver, 12.63% lead, 21.21% zinc, and 0.36% cadmium.

Hole U-7 was drilled to intersect the break 16 ft. along strike from U-6. In hole U-6, the ore was associated with a quartz lamprophyre for the first time, 4.4 ft. being cut just prior to the ore zone. In U-7, the lamprophyre had widened to 15.2 ft. and no sulphide occurred in the hole. Broken ground and lost drill water suggest a problem in faulting between U-6 and U-7. Failure of the water supply effectively halted any attempt at further investigation of this break.

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