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# Grapes of Gold

For Chester Millar and John Brock, it looks as if lightning will strike twice. They are the main players behind the latest VSE excitement, the La Teko-Esperanza gold play on Tillicum Mountain in the Nakusp area. Millar was one of the moving forces behind the Afton Mines discovery and Brock was in with Aro Aho in the huge Dynasty lead-zinc-silver find in the Yukon. A couple of other notable players in the Tillicum Mountain gold deal are Martin Giberson, a former Vancouver broker, and mining engineer John Billingsley, both of whom were active in financing Carolin Mines and David Minerals in the early stages of development.

How rich is the Tillicum Mountain find? If you make a visit to the Vancouver offices of Esperanza and if you are lucky enough to be shown into the locked room where Brock keeps the gold samples from the property, you will still have difficulty believing your eyes. One chunk of rock, weighing about 70 pounds, runs about 200 ounces gold per ton; the rock is valued at around \$6,000. The black-draped table in Brock's office is covered with samples from the property and the rocks have chunks of gold hanging, like grapes, from them. A bulk sample of 64 tons assayed 2,303 ounces per ton. A sample taken from early exploration work last year averaged 26.27 ounces gold over 2.3 metres.

The big mystery about the La Teko-Esperanza find is the lack of conventional structure. The ore does not occur in veins, neither is it a normal disseminated body, although one section indicated the potential for a low-grade ore body.

La Teko made the kind of offer Brock wanted — similar in structure to the deal made by Egil Lorntzen on his Lorney property, where the other partner takes down stock in the company and the money is spent on the property under supervision of the property owner. La Teko will pay the shot for developing the property and will earn shares in Esperanza with Brock having the say on how the money is to be spent. La Teko can earn 50.4% of Esperanza by putting up \$5.125 million and Esperanza retains 100% ownership of the mine. To date, La Teko has subscribed for 400,000 Esperanza shares at 50 cents a share and must come up with another \$800,000 by next June to keep its deal intact.

The 'street' has become aware of the Tillicum find and the shares of La Teko (recently \$5) and Esperanza (\$3) show this.

Also, a horde of other juniors and prospectors and deal-makers have invaded the area, staking claims and hoping to climb aboard a hot area. Some of the juniors involved include Carl Creek (50 cents) which has a large property tied on west of Esperanza. Preliminary work by Carl Creek seems to indicate that the same kind of host rock is present on their claims and samples taken from the ground also gave gold values. A work program is slated by Creek for the remainder of the season.

Whether Tillicum will be a bonanza, or another bust, won't be known for some time. Since it's located 2,000 metres (7,000 feet) up the mountain, the operation will have to close down for the winter, but with people like Millar, who has committed \$5 million to the deal, and Brock guiding its fate, we can be assured the property will get a good shot. ■