

# Gold exploration booms on Queen Charlottes

Gold exploration on the Queen Charlotte Islands is booming. A belt of gold mineralization at least 30 miles wide and 150 miles long containing 77 gold properties is the site of active exploration and staking. JMT Services Corp. geologists have been prospecting the Islands since 1974 and have noted a dramatic rise in exploration competition over the past two years. In 1977-78 under agreement with Chevron Minerals and in 1979 under agreement with Placer Development, the company's geologists prospected and staked 21 gold properties of which six are presently controlled by Chevron, four by Placer and 11 by JMT.

The highlight of gold exploration success on the Queen Charlotte Islands is the Cinola deposit discovered by prospector Efrek Specogna in 1970 and acquired by Cinola in 1977. Previous operators had been Kennco, Cominco, Silver Standard and Quintana Minerals who, by wide spaced shallow drilling, had indicated vast reserves of marginal grade gold mineralization. Under the aggressive manager, Ken Sanders, who drilled deeper and better, the development of this prospect has never looked back. Current diamond drilling continues to expand the tonnage of greater than 0.1 oz. gold per ton. A 40-hole minimum, 20,000-ft. diamond drill

program has been initiated recently. Characteristics of the Cinola deposit, which are believed to be significant to exploration and which have been recognized elsewhere on the Islands in association with gold are: strong sulphide mineralization, strong silica-clay alteration, quartz veining and an association with rhyolite intrusion and major faults. At Cinola As, Hg, Sb form geochem patterns much larger than the gold mineralization.

One of the better understood gold systems besides the Cinola deposit occurs along the Riley Rault System. The Courte antimony showing, under option by Chevron, has a mineralized zone 300 ft. by 1,500 ft., with one nearly continuous chip sample in the only creek cutting the system averaging 0.04 oz. gold per ton across the 300-ft. width. The zone is bounded on the north side by a northwest trending fault that is a regional control of mineralization. Along the fault to the northwest, other Chevron ground contains a poorly exposed zone 30 ft. wide grading 0.20 oz. gold per ton. This zone is on the edge of the drift covered Lower Riley Creek Valley. A soil grid in this part of the valley extends anomalous Au, As, Hg some 8,000 ft. to the northwest onto ground held by Placer Development. At the other end of the fault system Prism Resources has out-

lined an altered zone 200 ft. by 6,000 ft. with anomalous Au, As, Hg in soils and rocks.

Several centres of rhyolite volcanics with heavy sulphide silicification and anomalous Au, As, Hg occur on Woolverton-Umex ground; Bratlien, Livegard, Mooney (Prism) ground; Standbridge-Woolverton ground; Umex-Invox Resources ground; and JMT ground. All have had an initial phase of exploration completed on them.

## Umex active

Since the recognition of the Cinola deposit as a major new gold deposit in the early 1970s, Umex has been one of the more active exploration companies on the Charlottes. In the fall of 1978, Umex completed six diamond drill holes on the southwest portion of their property and additional drilling is rumored. Umex holds at least 10 other claim blocks and has crews in the field.

Southwest of Cinola, Chevron has completed sampling and mapping programs and are initiating drill programs on two properties. The Marie Property contains large zones of intensely silicified rhyolite breccias and sediments anomalous for Au, As, Sb and Hg. The King property is centered on the most intense and by far the largest As-Hg-Sb anomaly known on the Charlottes. Host rocks are cal-

careous argillites similar to the host rock at Carlin, Nevada.

Other property exploration is being conducted by junior companies and individuals. Property held by Burlington Gold Mines is currently being evaluated by A. F. Roberts. Field surveys are in progress on ground held by Newhawk Mines, ERL Resources Ltd., and Suneva Resources Ltd. G. H. Rayner and Associates Ltd. hold the old Crown-granted Southeaster gold claims and adjoining ground.

On Moresby Island, Falconbridge has recently optioned ground along the Sandspit Fault — an important control of mineralization at Cinola. A few miles south Belmont Res-Omoto Mines have acquired an interesting gold prospect originally discovered by Efrek Specona in the early 1970s. Umex conducted field surveys and diamond drilled one of the many geochem anomalies in 1975 obtaining assays as high as 0.07 oz. gold per ton. East and south of the area drilled by Umex, assays as high as 0.2 oz per ton have been obtained over narrow zones, indicating widespread mineralization in the area.

Placer has completed detailed property work and sampling on four properties acquired in 1979. Results are encouraging.

B.C. Gold Syndicate, a syndicate of four major exploration com-

panies managed by J. C. Stephen Explorations Ltd. of Vancouver has staked two properties this year. Spectacular visible gold was discovered on Alder Island and Huxley Island during the course of prospecting. An As-Sb showing on Alder Island and a copper showing with some free gold on Huxley Island were discovered in the early 1900s. Initial geochemical and geological surveys are being completed on both properties.

This article was written for The Northern Miner by J. S. Christie, K. W. Livingston and G. G. Richards of JMT Services Corp.

## Mosquito Creek plans production at Wells in Nov.

VANCOUVER — Another B.C. gold mine is coming on stream.

The mill at the Mosquito Creek Gold Mining property near Wells, B.C., was 85% complete in early October and gearing up for a start in the first two weeks of November. All equipment was on site with only delivery of a chlorinator being awaited.

Production will be at a rate of 100 tons a day with low grade material being run initially to set up the mill. Then a high grade stockpile containing between 5,000 and 6,000 tons will be treated.

A manway and airshaft have been broken through from the 4200 level to surface and drifting and crosscutting are under way on the 4200 and 4100 levels. Drilling is in progress on the 4200 level to prove up additional ore reserves and confirm current reserve figures. Ore reserves are put at 28,000 tons grading not less than an ounce gold per ton.

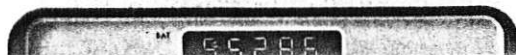
The mine will employ 35 permanent employees and the \$1 million payroll is expected to give a needed boost to the depressed economy of the Wells-Quesnel area.

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