



MOTHER LODE

CHAMBER OF MINES OF EASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A non-profit bureau of information providing authentic, reliable data to the general public and the mining industry of Eastern British Columbia

Fred Critchlow – President

215 Hall St., Nelson, BC, V1L 5X4

Phone/FAX: (250) 352-5242

NEWSLETTER

Editor – John Murray

SUMMER 2000

CASSIDY WORKS MCPHEE PROPERTY

adapted from: www.infomine.com

Cassidy Gold Corp. has started exploration on the McPhee property east of Castlegar, B.C. The McPhee project consists of an option to acquire a 100-per-cent interest in 35 contiguous mineral claims comprising 122 units and covering approximately 3,000 hectares. The fee simple land is owned by Atco Lumber Ltd. of Fruitvale, B.C.

Previous prospecting by Bruce Doyle of Nelson, BC, resulted in the discovery late last year of a gold-bearing vein in weakly altered fractured granitic rocks. One chip sample by Warner Gruenwald, P. Geo., returned assay results of 5.9 oz/tonne gold and 3.72 oz/tonne silver over 0.3 m. Visible gold can be seen in several locations along this steeply dipping vein.

Other gold bearing veins have been observed more than 50 m from the discovery site. Gold geochemical

anomalies are present up to several hundred metres west of the new discovery area. The current program consists of approximately 700 m of excavator trenching as well as further prospecting work.

Recently Cassidy reported that during the course of this work they discovered an old mine site located approximately 2 km from the Road area that is the focus of current exploration. Examinations of mining literature found mention of the old mine workings in the 1900 annual report of the Minister of Mines:

"The Maud S., Yellow Jacket, Touch-Me-Not, Standard, Eric and Syracuse, situated on Champion Creek, near Waterloo, are controlled by the Onondago Mines of Syracuse, N.Y., and are managed by Thomas James. During the year about 515 feet of development work have been done, 30 men have been employed, and \$2,000 have been spent on wagon roads and trails. There are now being installed a 10 stamp mill, a sawmill and buildings to accommodate 65 men. The ore is free-milling and averages about \$20 per ton in gold."

Although old workings found by Cassidy include a 10-stamp mill, deteriorated hand-hewn log cabins, numerous old pits, an adit, drift and stope with attendant dumps, it appears that the mine never achieved full production, as no evidence of mineral production in government records has been found.

Visible gold was observed in a sample taken near an old pit above the adit. The creek below the workings was panned and yielded gold flecks. No work or exploration has apparently been undertaken in the 90 or so years since the mine was shut down. Cassidy intends to explore the mine area with a view to defining drill targets. Other old workings exist on the McPhee project area, and these are being evaluated as well.

It is anticipated that drill targets will be established from the current work programs, and that drilling will begin in September. ■

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DID YOU KNOW?

Canadian miners played an important part in winning WWII? In the darkest days of the Axis onslaught, before the US entered the war, suppliers of war materiel to the Allies insisted on payment in gold. Thus gold mining became an essential war industry, and miners served their country underground rather than at the front. ■

MINING: GOOD NEIGHBOUR AND PROVIDER TO THE WORLD

KBLUP TO BE LEGISLATED A HIGHER LEVEL PLAN

by: J. Murray, P. Geo.

The Provincial government recently announced its intention to establish a Higher Level Plan under the Forest Practices Code that would declare forestry-related components of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy as legal requirements. Comments on the draft HLP will be considered until September 26th. (Note that public comment period is for the HLP only because both the KBLUP and its Implementation Strategy are already government policy.)

The effect of legislating parts of the Land Use Plan as an HLP will be to require District Forest Managers to ensure that strategic and operational plans under the Forest Practices Code are consistent with legally established HLP objectives.

Worthy of note (but perhaps not surprising!) these legally established objectives do not include economic or social objectives; only environmental objectives will be **legal** requirements, despite the fact that when the Land Use Planning Process began its proponents all claimed to have an interest in balance. (Remember that '3-legged stool'?)

The Forest sector is very concerned that no economic objectives are to be included in the KBLUP HLP, despite promises from the Minister of Forests, and despite the fact that other HLP's (eg. Cariboo) DO include economic objectives. They believe that the net impacts will include mill closures and job losses.

The Forest sector is pressing very hard during this public comment period to change the government's mind and include economic objectives. They are

lobbying Chambers of Commerce, and local governments for support. I have been encouraging them to point out to the public that the impacts will not fall just on loggers and millworkers. Retailers, recreationists, and local governments will also be affected by any further downturns in the forest industry.

The HLP will establish 10 legally binding objectives:

- ◆ Biodiversity emphasis;
- ◆ Old and Mature forest;
- ◆ Caribou, including habitat requirements;
- ◆ Green Up/Patch Size;
- ◆ Grizzly Bears;
- ◆ Consumptive Use Streams;
- ◆ Enhanced Resource Development Zones - Timber;
- ◆ Connectivity;
- ◆ Fire-Maintained Ecosystems; and
- ◆ Visuals

The Ministers of Environment, Forests, and Mines are all required to sign off on the HLP, and on a letter delegating authority from the Ministers to the Regional Directors of Environment and Forests "to ensure necessary amendments are efficiently processed." (Note that while Dan Miller is expected to sign off on the original HLP there is no delegation of his authority to the Mines Branch Regional Director!)

The proposed Order establishing the HLP includes the following section which perhaps explains this omission: "The following objectives (see above) do not affect operational plans for construction of trails or roads, or for other exploration, development, and production activities when these activities have been authorized for purposes of subsurface resource

exploration, development or production by the Mineral Tenure Act, Coal Act, Mines Act, Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, or the Geothermal Resources Act."

While this exclusion does give some considerable comfort to the mineral sector it should be realized that most of the roads we depend on are in fact put in by the forest industry; restrictions on that sector ARE restrictions on us too - we are 'collateral damage!' Further, with Regional Directors of Environment and Forests (people with little knowledge of, and no responsibility for, mining) in ultimate control, mineral interests are bound to be subjugated to the 10 objectives for which they will be legally responsible. How can it be otherwise?

At the most recent Board meeting your Chamber Directors passed a motion requesting the Provincial government to include economic objectives (including objectives for the mining industry) in any Higher Level Plan. It is important that government hear from you too!

Copies of the draft HLP, the delegation letter, and a report from the MoF's Deputy Minister recommending the inclusion of an economic objective (advice being ignored!) are available at Ministry of Forests Regional and District offices in Nelson, MOELP offices in Nelson and Cranbrook, and on MoF and LUCO web sites. Comments should be delivered to Garry Darychuk, MoF, Nelson Forest Region, 518 Lake St, Nelson, BC, V1L 4C6. Comments can also be made through the following e-mail address: KB.HLP@gems4.gov.bc.ca. For more information see: www.gov.bc.ca/for/ or www.luco.gov.bc.ca ■

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