

BELL MINE VISIT

*Bell*

On December 5th I visited the Bell Mine site to talk with Ross MacArthur, Maggie Dittrick and Jill Pardoe. For the first time since I arrived in Smithers, the mine had a geologist on staff. We reviewed the exploration programs on the Granisle and Bell pits.

*Granisle*

A total of 66 drill holes were completed on the Granisle pit to better delineate a potential of 50 million tons located under the pit ramp. The pit is partially filled with water so a winter drilling program on ice is planned. The stripping ratio appears to be fairly attractive, approximately 0.5:1.

At the Bell mine site, Noranda drilled 52 holes within and adjacent to the pit in order to better define ore and waste zones. An additional 10 holes were drilled to the north and west of the pit to define areas suitable for future waste-rock dumps. Extensive areas of mineralization have been defined around the pit, particularly under the flat "dacite" dyke. Evaluations are underway to determine if the mineralization is economic as a major stripping program would be necessary.

NORTHWEST BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPLORATION REVIEW

Much of December was spent compiling information for the 1990 Exploration Review. The results are summarized below, see the 1990 Exploration Review for all the information.

Northwestern British Columbia was one of the most active mineral exploration areas in the country in 1990, with expenditures in excess of \$110 million. This amounts to more than 60 per cent of all the dollars spent on exploration in the province. More encouraging results from the Eskay Creek property generated much of the action as 34 companies exploring in the Stewart - Iskut River area spent more than \$51 million. The current surge of mineral exploration has lasted four years and has found numerous new mineral occurrences and defined new deposits.

the number of exploration programs increased in most areas throughout the Northwestern District. More companies were active in the region extending north from the Iskut River to the Galore Creek and Kiniskan Lake areas. Precious metal veins continued to be the principal target with some companies searching for polymetallic porphyry and volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits.

Construction of the surface facilities and development of the underground workings for the Snip gold deposit of Cominco Ltd. were almost complete by the end of the year. Mining of this deposit will start in early 1991. Windy

**Craggy and Sulphurets** were the other two most advanced, active projects. Eight mines continued production and one operation closed in 1990. The **Bell, Equity Silver, Cheni Gold, Shasta, Premier Gold, Golden Bear and Cassiar** mines operated throughout the year. Cassiar Mining Corporation removed the last ore from its open pit in June and by November had begun underground mining of asbestos fibre from the newly developed **McDame** deposit. The depletion of ore reserves at the **Johnny Mountain** gold mine led to its closure in September. **Crows Nest Resources Limited** proposed mining plans for the **Telkwa** coal deposits; however, late in the year the company announced it was planning to sell its coal assets. The number of placer mining operations in the district declined 20 per cent from 1989, continuing a trend which started in 1988.

#### LAND USE

A presentation was made to the **Driftwood-Reiseter Creek LRUP** concerning the mineral potential of this study area.

#### MEETINGS AND CLIENT INTERACTIONS

I received the **Phanerozoic Biochronology and Geochronometry** table from **Bob Anderson** of the **GSC** for my comments. it is to be released at **Roundup**.

I gave a short presentation on **Kutcho Creek** on **December 7th** for **Rocks and Ramblings**.

Several prospectors are excited about the the volcanogenic massive sulphide potential of northwestern British Columbia. Therefore, on one weeks notice I arranged a **VMS** workshop on **December 17th**. Nine people attended the three and half hour session.

During the month I attended the following meetings:

<b>Babine Recreation Area</b>	<b>3rd evening</b>
<b>Northwest Mine Development Review</b>	<b>13th</b>
<b>Smithers Exploration Group</b>	<b>14th</b>
<b>Driftwood -Reiseter Ck.</b>	<b>13th</b>