

Ms. Pamela Strand of Shear reports

SHEAR MINERALS LTD.: HIGH PRIORITY KIMBERLITE TARGETS AT CHURCHILL PROJECT; 2003 EXPLORATION PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Shear Minerals and Northern Empire Minerals have disclosed that the 2003 field program has been mobilized to their Churchill diamond project and that results from the 2002 heavy mineral sampling program and airborne geophysical survey continue to indicate the presence of diamondiferous kimberlites on the project.

A review of the geophysical data by independent consultant Christopher Campbell of Intrepid Geophysics, Vancouver, B.C., identified a total of 217 kimberlite targets, including 29 of high priority. These isolated magnetic targets are suggestive of kimberlite and were picked from data acquired during a 16,307-line-kilometre fixed-wing aeromagnetic survey conducted in the autumn of 2002.

A field crew has been mobilized to the project to conduct ground geophysical surveys. Detailed total magnetic field and electromagnetic data will be acquired on 30 of the targets identified by Mr. Campbell that are located up-ice from anomalous indicator mineral samples and float occurrences. Results from this program will be used to target drilling currently scheduled to begin in the late spring of 2003.

During the 2002 field season, a total of 130 regional samples were collected by APEX Geoscience Ltd. and processed at the Saskatchewan Research Council. Of these samples, 27 yielded diamond indicator minerals with one sample containing 45 pyrope garnets and two eclogitic garnets grains. Probe confirmed kimberlitic grains include pyrope garnet, olivine, chrome diopside, chromite and ruby corundum. These new results confirm those previously obtained, whereby 46 per cent of the 107 total pyrope garnets identified in 29 samples were G10 subcalcic pyropes as defined by Gurney (1984). Three of these G10 pyrope garnets are significantly subcalcic and have the following compositions: (1) 12.27 per cent Cr₂O₃, 2.83 per cent CaO; (2) 13.96 per cent Cr₂O₃, 4.75 per cent CaO; and (3) 12.45 per cent Cr₂O₃, 3.72 per cent CaO.

Additionally, two spatially separate occurrences of kimberlite float were also discovered on the property within a corridor coincident with recovered indicator minerals. The mineral chemistry recovered from the regional samples is unique to the region, differing from the existing kimberlite and lamprophyre rocks already known to occur locally.

"Shear is very pleased that the results from this new area continue to indicate the presence of proximal kimberlite sources within the project boundaries," says Pamela Strand, president of Shear. "The favourable mineral chemistry suggests that there is the potential for these kimberlites to be significantly diamondiferous."

The Churchill project was based upon a conceptual model targeting the Churchill craton of the Keewatin district of Nunavut. Shear is the operator of the project and holds a 51-per-cent interest, with partners Northern Empire holding 35 per cent and Hunter Exploration 14 per cent. The project now comprises

more than one million acres of favourable ground near Rankin Inlet on Hudson Bay. The companies recently reported in Stockwatch news on Jan. 30, 2003, a \$2.5-million exploration program on the project.

Skeena Resources Ltd

SKE

Shares issued 16,829,241 5 Mar 03 close \$ 0.10

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News Release . . . Skeena Resources acquires Ronoke, Blackhorn properties

Mr. J. Rupert Allan reports

PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS AND A RE-FOCUS ON GOLD AND BASE METALS

Skeena Resources has entered into an arm's-length purchase agreement with A. Travis of Westbank, B.C., to acquire a 100-per-cent interest in two gold exploration properties in British Columbia, known as the Blackhorn and the Ronoke.

The Blackhorn property consists of 12 claims (6,000 hectares) located along the eastern margin of the Coast Range Mountains of west-central British Columbia, approximately 40 kilometres south-southwest of Tatla Lake. The community of Tatla Lake is 230 kilometres west-southwest of Williams Lake. There is good road access to within 10 kilometres of the property. The claims cover a number of high-grade, gold-bearing, quartz-carbonate veins and base metal showings (copper and nickel sulphides) in a complex setting of imbricate thrust sheets of Mesozoic volcanic and sedimentary rocks and Late Cretaceous to Early Tertiary intrusives. The most significant of the showings are hosted within a band of schistose rocks along the 4.5-kilometre-long Blackhorn trend (B.C. government assessment files and Minister of Mines report). This unit hosts the Blackhorn vein which is reported to average a cut value of 34.7 grams per tonne gold (plus high concentrations of silver, lead, zinc and copper) over an average width of 0.43 metre for a length of 51.7 metres in an underground drift. The best reported values were 193.08 grams per tonne gold and 238 grams per tonne silver over 0.5 metre width. The host wall rocks also contain elevated values of gold (up to 4.37 grams per tonne over 0.9 metre), silver (up to 7.5 grams per tonne), arsenic, copper and zinc. At the Homestake zone (at the south end of the Blackhorn trend), reports from the late 1930s noted a narrow quartz vein which assayed up to 1.47 ounces per ton gold and 1.1 ounces per ton silver. This structure also hosts the Hunting Lodge, Galena and Milk Can showings further to the north. The HW area, approximately 1.5 kilometres southeast of the Blackhorn trend, is host to a poorly exposed quartz stockwork occurrence in rugged terrain from which a series of historical grab samples assayed an average of 21 grams per tonne gold with minor silver and copper values. In another area 2.5 kilometres farther yet to the east, the Champagne and Lori showings consist of numerous well-mineralized boulders of sulphide-bearing, quartz-carbonate veins, assaying from one to 89 grams per tonne gold, in an area of poor bedrock exposure. All of the above-mentioned

occurrences are located within the Blackhorn property boundaries.

The Blackhorn property is an historically prospective area in the Coast Range Mountains that has recently become attractive because of enhanced access, the high-grade nature of its gold occurrences and the availability of the B.C. government regional geochemical survey data (stream silt sampling program), which indicate numerous unexplored high-priority geochemical targets within the claim area.

The road-accessible Ronoke claims are located in southeastern British Columbia, seven kilometres northeast of Ymir, and cover several reverted Crown grants, which include the Ronoke, Lexington and Sterling gold showings. The best reported previous trench results averaged 6.9 grams per tonne gold across four metres from a zone of disseminated sulphides in a silicified band of altered schist and quartzite (B.C. government Minfile report). Aside from a number of short adits developed in the mid-1930s, no significant work has been reported from the property during recent years.

Both properties will be investigated with detailed prospecting, mapping, soil geochemistry and trenching this spring.

To purchase the properties, over a three-year period, Skeena must make staged cash payments totalling \$30,000 (nil in the first year), and issue 550,000 common shares (50,000 in the first year). A 2-per-cent net smelter return royalty is reserved for the vendor, which may be purchased for \$500,000 by Skeena subsequent to making a production decision on either project.

A shares-for-debt settlement has been negotiated with a number of the company's creditors, including two directors. Pending regulatory approval, up to \$101,192 of current debt will be extinguished by the issuance of common shares with a deemed value of 10 cents per share. The shares issued will have a one-year hold period for resale.

The company also intends to undertake a non-brokered private placement financing, subject to regulatory approval, to provide working capital and to pay for the acquisition of an advanced gold exploration project. The placement, to be conducted by the company on a best-efforts basis, will consist of a maximum of two million units, each unit comprising one common share at 15 cents per share and one share purchase warrant; each warrant may be exercised for the purchase of one common share at 20 cents per share for a period of one year. The shares issued will be subject to a one-year hold period for resale. A commission may be payable on that portion of the placement not acquired by officers and directors of the company.

Subject to regulatory approval, 900,000 director and employee options have been granted with an exercise price of 15 cents per share for a period of five

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