

On July 4, I visited the Blu Starr gemstone property with Len Danard and Leroy Walbaum (Anglo-Swiss Industries Inc.), who have the property under option from co-discoverer Rod Luchinsky. We visited Rod's home near Winlaw, north of Passmore where the property exists. Rod has self-taught himself the cutting, polishing and design setting of sapphires (7 different colours), titanite, ruby, beryl (incl. colourless variety), zircons, "Japan" quartz, amethyst (see photos). He continues to make new discoveries and has built a 'network' of explorers for gemstones elsewhere in the Province. Anglo-Swiss has hired Guildine Gauthier and Kathleen Dickson to map out and evaluate the corundum (sapphire) distribution and economic potential of the Blu Starr showing, and the Blu Moon showing located approx. 1 km to the northwest, on the north side of the junction of the Little Slocan and Slocan rivers. In 1995, George Simandl 'confirmed' the presence of the corundum deposit hosting rough star sapphire crystals as large as 250 carats in size. Many gem quality specimens, set in jewellery, are for sale in Nelson. The corundum and other 'gemstones' occur within pegmatitic, augen units of the Valhalla Gneiss Complex. Later in the month, Anglo-Swiss reported the discovery of a 50 carat sapphire.

Anglo-Swiss has also applied to MEI for placer title, including 3 large benches on the sides of the Slocan River near Passmore. [TGS Comment - could be significant; will be scrutinized by environmentalists/regulators].