

IOLITE ("WATER SAPPHIRE") GEMSTONES DISCOVERED

AT BLU STARR

from: <http://www.canada-stockwatch.com>

Anglo Swiss Resources Inc. has announced the discovery of a new iolite gemstone, often referred to as "water sapphire", occurrence on their Blu Starr Property.

Iolite, the gem variety of the mineral known as cordierite, is a hard, durable gemstone with a violet-blue colour, similar in appearance to the gemstone tanzanite. Iolite from the Blu Starr property displays a remarkable property known as trichroism, meaning that if a given gemstone is viewed from three different directions, it exhibits three different colours, namely blue-violet, honey-yellow and pale blue-grey. Cabochon-cut iolite from the property displays a noticeable star effect.

This new iolite discovery occurs within a distinct litho-stratigraphic horizon, and has been followed for more than two kilometres along strike in outcrop and talus by James Laird, Anglo's Exploration Manager, who is credited with the discovery. Initial results of a sampling program tested two gem quality iolite-bearing zones. The two zones outcrop approximately 1 kilometre apart on a correlative litho-stratigraphic horizon, and float occurrences of similar material have been traced for an additional kilometre along strike.

The initial iolite discovery, known as the Rainbow North zone, outcrops at the base of a small bluff. The mineralized zone has been hand-trenched and is presently exposed for 20 m along strike, 5 m in thickness, and 5 m in profile depth. The zone has a shallow dip to the east and is open along strike and to depth. The surrounding wallrock is composed of well-layered feldspar-quartz-biotite-hornblende gneiss with scattered garnet porphyro-

blasts. The iolite hostrock is a distinctive, dark-green fibrous metamorphic rock composed of biotite and fuchsite mica, tremolite-actinolite, iolite, quartz, feldspar, megacrystic almandine-pyrope garnets, and amphibole.

Iolite content varies, averaging about 5% of the observed rock surface, which is highly weathered. Additional minerals noted include amethyst, clear, rose and star quartz; schorl and dravite tourmaline crystals up to 10 cm in diameter, rutile, beryl, spinel, ilmenite, muscovite, chlorite and others. The amethyst and clear quartz crystals commonly display positive and negative scepters and complex twinning patterns.

The iolite occurs as large crystals in quartz vein stockworks and pegmatites, and as scattered masses throughout the hostrock. The iolite crystals weather to irregular masses of translucent violet gem material on the outcrop surface. Beneath the weathered outcrop, the tabular iolite crystals display a greenish-brown retrograde alteration known as pinite, which is a fine-grained mixture of sericite mica and chlorite. The deepest samples obtained from the outcrop show euhedral dark violet crystals with minimal alteration.

The largest single crystals exceed 1,000 carats in weight, but much larger crystalline masses have resulted from complex twinning and intergrowths. A representative 2 m by 2 m panel sample averaging about 10 centimetres in depth was taken by hammer and moil from the south end of the mineralized zone. The total sample weight was approximately one tonne, from which 25 kilograms of high-grade iolite crystal ore was extracted.

The second iolite zone, known as Rainbow South zone, is also found outcropping at the base of a low bluff, and is presently exposed for 10 m along strike, 2 m in thickness, and 2 m in profile depth. This zone also has a shallow dip and is open to strike and to depth. General deposit morphology, mineralogy and alteration are similar to the Rainbow North zone. Large, euhedral iolite crystals form in quartz veins and as scattered masses and crystals throughout the hostrock. A representative 2 m by 2 m panel sample averaging about 10 centimeters in depth was taken from the centre of the zone again producing approximately one tonne yielding about 25 kg of high-grade iolite crystal ore. The two samples taken together contain more than 100,000 rough carats of iolite crystal.

Access to this location is excellent. Extraction of sapphire/garnet/iolite is ongoing to ensure continued supply for shipment to Sri Lanka for faceting, in order to build up a larger inventory of finished gemstones, prior to offering the gemstones to the marketplace.

An exploration access track has been completed to the recently discovered Sapphire Hill site. Three separate areas of mineralization continue to produce well-formed blue-grey rough sapphires. Management estimates that 15,000 carats of rough sapphire has already been extracted from this showing. A small shipment of this material has been sent to Sri Lanka for preliminary heat-treatment testing to enhance the colour and clarity of the stones. It is an accepted fact in the jewelry industry that over 90% of the gem-grade sapphires have been subjected to heat treatment. ■

The Mother Lode Jan. '99

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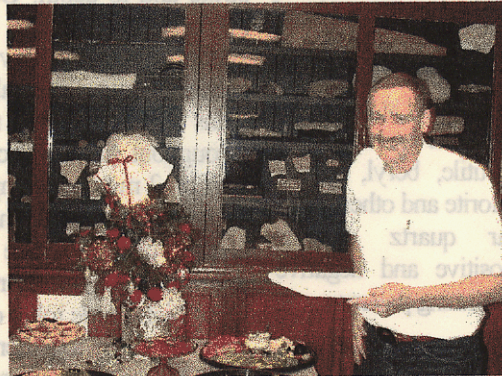
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CHAMBER REPORT

by Dennis G. Llewellyn

Well here we go into 1999, with a drastic weather change since my last report in December. The Christmas Party was a great success, with lots of good food, spirits and many a property prospected and mined many times in conversation. The participants were about 70 plus (hard to tell with comings and goings). Good to see some faces only seen at this time of year from out of town folk. Thanks to all of those who donated either to the Christmas Party or to general funds for your generous donations, they are greatly appreciated.



Dennis replenishing food at Xmas Party

Photo: Essay Ent.

We may be running a Gemstone Course in mid January, if we have enough interest. With the new discoveries in the Slokan, the potential is there for some more new discoveries. Anyone with any interest in prospecting, may do well to look into gemstones as well.

We are looking for nominations for the 1999 executive. If you would like to nominate any members for the following positions, please call me for details; President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Directors.

The Clock/Quilt/Membership draw winners were (in order) John Murray, Will Stadey, & Lorraine McGregor. An Amethyst cut gemstone, donated by Dave Barclay for silent auction was successfully bid by Jim Laird of Anglo Swiss Industries for \$100.00. A steal of a deal.

REMINDER: Your membership is past due. Please note whether or not your expiry date is highlighted in yellow on the address label. If you have already paid, please disregard. Your support is badly needed by the Chamber.

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RESPONSE continued from P. 2

It appears that the committee is recommending a single use land strategy and the Multi-use system is not being considered. The Chamber agrees that special natural recreational and cultural features should be protected but this should not include hundreds of hectares. Some proposals surrounding the specific features appears to be nothing more than a large single use land grab.

Sincerely, Mike Hudock,
Chamber President.

cc Dave Grieve, Mineral Lands Planner,
MEM, Cranbrook,

Linda Caron, Boundary Mining
Association, Greenwood

Rick Walker, East Kootenay Chamber
of Mines, Cranbrook, BC

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WANTS TO WORK WITH MINERS

from: Nelson & District Chamber News

In his inaugural address new Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce president Dave Duncan said "We need to work together with the Chamber of Mines of Eastern BC to see what needs to be done to revive exploration in our area." He reminded Chamber members that since the CORE process the N&DCC has been urging government to conduct

economic impact analyses prior to taking any action that would impact negatively on forestry or mining. "We need to continue and strengthen our call for that analysis and the development of a meaningful mitigation strategy ..." Duncan wants to meet with the heads of other community organization to share information on plans and activities.

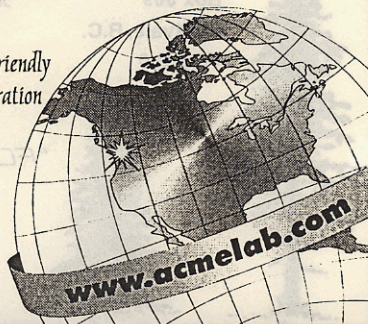
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