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Bralorne-Pioneer

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A New Life for Canada's Richest Mine

Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mines Ltd. [BPN-TSX Venture] is in the process of re-activating one of British Columbia's most illustrious gold mines. Actually, the project comprises several underground mines – the Bralorne, Pioneer, King and other smaller mines – as well as several new nearby gold discoveries. Under the guidance of well-respected mining financier Louis Wolfen and son David, the team has assembled the most prolific of the mines in the Bridge River Valley, completed extensive exploratory work and constructed a mill to process the ore and produce concentrate.

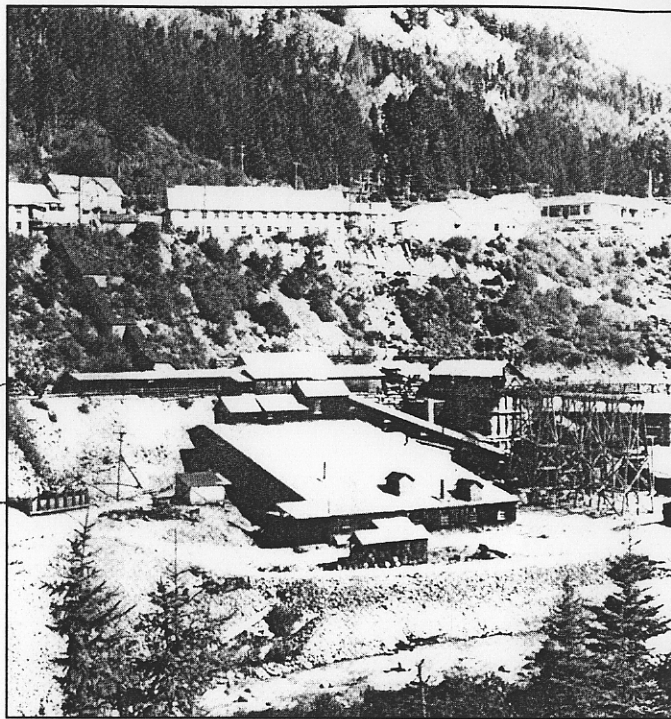
The Bralorne, Pioneer and smaller mines, located about 350 km northeast of Vancouver, produced about 4.1 million ounces of gold between 1897 and 1971 when operations finally ceased. In total, the mines recovered well over US \$1.5 billion in gold at today's prices. During the 1930s, the mines became famous as boomtowns as thousands of men headed west seeking relief from the Great Depression. But that was not all the mines were famous for – it was the high-grade gold mineralization. Indeed, the richest ton of ore ever mined in Canada came from the Bralorne Mine – a staggering 2,000 oz. gold/ton.

These mines were extensive – some 100 miles of tunnels were driven into the mountains and to a depth of about one mile. The Bralorne mine would be as deep as five Empire State buildings stacked on top of each other. However, this did not mean the gold was mined out when mining ceased. On the contrary, modern exploration techniques have discovered extensive zones of new gold mineralization – much of it the typical high-grade gold of the past. For example, on surface the Peter Vein returned assays up to a very rich 16 oz. gold/ton. In addition, underground exploration at the Peter Zone has encountered an average grade of 0.38 oz. gold/ton over a strike length of 215 feet with an average width of 3.4 feet. Of significance is the fact that the Peter Zone correlates with a similar zone intersected 300 metres below surface on the 800 Level that assayed 0.40 oz. gold/ton over a width of 6.0 feet and a strike length of 100 feet. This opens the possibility that the Peter Zone can be substantially expanded.

Consulting geologist Dr. Matt Ball, P. Geo., has identified several areas on the Loco property in the northern part of the claim group that host promising exploration targets for expansion of Bralorne gold mineralization, including the Peter, Big Solly, Zone B., Millchuck, Maddy and Cosmopolitan veins. Dr. Ball notes that the pattern of veins in the Loco area mimics that of the Bralorne-Pioneer veins, making them "a structural extension of the Bralorne-Pioneer vein system." Previous exploration has already identified the Peter Zone strike length to be between 2,000 and 3,000 feet in length to a depth of over 1,000 feet. Trenching has now extended the Peter Zone by some 1,200 feet to the west.

While excellent exploration potential is important, it is the reserves already outlined that will launch the company into the producer category. To date, mineable reserves stand at 497,000 tons grading 0.37 oz. gold/ton, representing 184,000 ounces in this initial resource. The planned milling rate would be 250 tonnes per day, increasing to 450 tonnes per day. Even without the new discoveries, there are over five years of reserves at this rate of production.

Utilizing a gravity/flotation process (no cyanide or mercury), metallurgical studies have indicated a gold recovery of 94%.



The Bralorne Mines before closure in 1971. Photo courtesy Sunfire Publications Ltd.

This equates to approximately 20,000 ounces of gold produced in the first year. To save refinery costs, gold bricks will be poured on site.

Most of the infrastructure to begin production is now in place – offices, bunkhouses, assay lab, cook house, power and telephone lines. A complete mill from western Vancouver Island was disassembled and trucked to the Bridge River mine site where it was re-assembled. Just the wiring remains to be completed before production can begin using a contract mining firm.

At least \$1 million is needed to complete the mill and prepare the operation for production. The company plans to raise these funds by way of private placements and possibly a debenture financing convertible to gold. After many years of preparation, the Wolfens are finally nearing the completion of their dream – the rebirth of Canada's richest gold mine. 