

British Columbia

DEVELOPMENT

There are a number of metal and industrial mineral projects in British Columbia that have reached the development stage.

by Ellsworth Dickson

After years of effort the father and son team of Louis and David Wolfen are nearing the production stage at their 100% owned Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mine located in the historic Bralorne mining camp near Lillooet, southwest BC. Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mines Ltd. [BPN-TSXV] holds several formerly producing high-grade gold mines that have been assembled into one large property. Since its discovery in 1871, these mines have produced 4.15 million ounces of gold and 0.95 million ounces of silver from 7.9 million tons of ore at a recovered grade of 0.53 oz.gold/ton.

Besides the known but, as yet unmined veins, the company has discovered additional gold mineralization, in particular, the Peter Vein from which a 10,000-tonne bulk sample will be extracted in the near future. Permits are in place and underground development of shrinkage stopes is underway in preparation to mine the bulk sample. Based on studies done in the 1980s, gold resources stand at 476,000 tons grading 0.35 oz.gold/ton, taking into account a 15% dilution.

The operation includes a mill that is nearing completion where the bulk sample will be processed. Meanwhile, construction of the tailings pond is also nearing completion. The processing of the bulk sample is considered a milling test to fine-tune the plant for optimum recoveries. A mining plan is also being developed and permits are in place for a 500 tonne-per-day operation. About 70% of the gold is free milling and can be smelted on site with the remainder (flotation concentrate) trucked to Lillooet, then transported by rail to a smelter.

Much of the property remains unexplored, one of the more promising areas being located between the Bralorne and Pioneer mines as well as the Peter Vein to depth. The formerly mined veins, developed on 46 levels, are known to continue to well over 5,000 feet in depth. William Kocken, president, states

that he expects mining/milling operations will be underway by spring 2004.

Another high-grade gold project in the development stage is the Cariboo Gold Project near the famous placer mining town of Barkerville and the underground mining town of Wells, about 100 km east of Quesnel in the Cariboo region. The 56-km long mineral land package follows the Barkerville Gold Trend and is held by three related companies – International Wayside Gold Mines Ltd. [IWA-TSXV], Island Mountain Gold Mines Ltd. [IGM-TSXV] and Golden Cariboo Resources Ltd. [GCC-TSXV].

Barkerville was the scene of a placer gold rush in the 1860s that saw some 93 tons of placer gold recovered. From 1933 to 1967 about 38 tons of lode gold was produced from the underground lode mines at Wells. Frank Callaghan, president of the three companies, says that exploration of the properties has resulted in the discovery of a style of gold mineralization not previously recognized in the camp. While gold-rich quartz veins were mined in the past, the newly-recognized gold mineralization, named Bonanza Ledge, is a type of 'replacement-style' deposit formed in large pods.

It is from the Bonanza Ledge deposits that a 10,000-tonne bulk sample is currently being extracted from the Wayside claims. At the time Resource World Magazine visited the property, a decline was being driven about 500 feet to access the pod. Close-spaced diamond drilling from surface has delineated the Bonanza Ledge mineralization, which averages 1.5 oz.gold/ton. Under an arrangement with Imperial Metals, the bulk sample material will be trucked to the Mount Polley mill for processing.

Following the bulk sampling operation, the companies plan to apply for a 70,000-tonne permit and develop a mining plan for a smaller-sized operation. Gold recoveries from the rough concentrate are expected to be about 95%. Callaghan said he hopes full production can be achieved by summer 2004.

(below) A miner drills a hole for a rock bolt in the decline at the Cariboo Gold Project of International Wayside Gold Mines Ltd. At this point, the decline is about 30 metres into the mountain. *Photos by Ellsworth Dickson*

Cariboo Gold Project

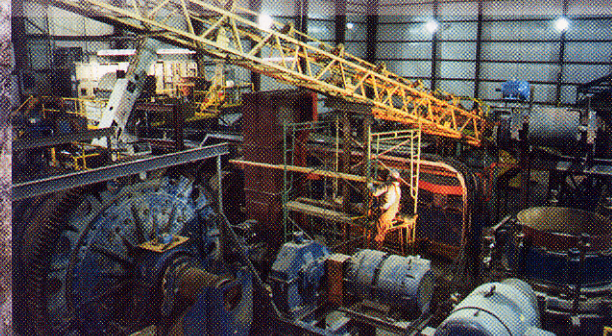


Bralorne-Pioneer Mine



(centre) Hank Sanche, P.Geol, vice president of exploration, points out the high-grade Peter Vein where a 10,000-tonne bulk sample will be extracted *(below)* The Bralorne-Pioneer mill is nearing completion.

Bralorne-Pioneer Mine



The large property has further potential for new discoveries. As well as some new quartz veins, a style of gold miner mineralization similar to Bonanza Ledge has been discovered on the Island Mountain ground and some new gold showings have been found on the Golden Cariboo claims. These will be followed up in the future.

Cross Lake Minerals Ltd. [CRN-TSXV] holds a 100% option on the QR property located 58 km southeast of Quesnel, east-central BC. Currently on a care and maintenance basis, the operation includes an 800 tonne per day mill and related infrastructure. The QR Mine operated between May 1995 and April 1998 when mining was suspended due to low gold prices. While in operation, QR recovered 118,084 ounces of gold. The property has a mineable resource of over 900,000 tonnes averaging 3.1 grams gold/tonne with a recoverable gold content of some 900,000 ounces, representing about 3.5 years of feed for the mill. The company is currently carrying out a drilling program on the QR property designed to increase gold resources in the Midwest and North zones.

The company's objective is to define additional reserves to enable to mine to be placed back into production. To this end, Cross Lake will recalculate reserves and resources, analyze mill and surface facilities, prepare a capital and operating cost analysis and complete a production scoping study.

In the Babine Lake region of north-central BC **Pacific Booker Minerals Inc.** [BKM-TSXV] is working on the Hearne Hill/Morrison properties. The company is evaluating development of the Morrison, an advanced-stage porphyry copper-gold deposit. Located 65 km northeast of Smithers, the Morrison deposit, which is under option from **Noranda Inc.** [NRD-TSX], is geologically similar to both the nearby Bell and Granisle deposits. An initial starter pit at the northwestern zone will yield an estimated 15 million tonnes of ore containing 0.53% copper and 0.26 grams gold/tonne. The ultimate pit is expected to produce 75 million tonnes of ore grading 0.47% copper and 0.22 grams gold/tonne.

J. Paul Stevenson, CEO, envisages an open pit operation producing 20,000 to 25,000 tonnes per day 365 days per year, or about 7 million tonnes per year that would produce 30,000 to 35,000 tonnes of copper. It is estimated construction of the mine will take 18 to 24 months. Mine life is estimated to be 10 years. Following

completion of a feasibility study and permitting, Pacific Booker hopes the mine can start operations in the third quarter of 2007.

Taseko Mines Ltd. [TKO-TSXV; TKOCF-OTC BB] is taking steps to reopen the Gibraltar copper mine located 65 km north of Williams Lake. The project is being viewed in conjunction with another Taseko project - the Prosperity copper-gold project, located 250 km southwest of Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Mine began production in 1972 and produced for 27 years. Now on a care and maintenance basis, the mine still has estimated sulphide mineral resources of 745 million tonnes grading 0.3% copper at a 0.2% copper cut-off and contains 4.7 billion pounds of copper. Taseko management believes the mine has sufficient resources for a

minimum 15 years of production with considerable potential for production from possible additional resources.

The Taseko review team has recommended a 70,000 tonnes per day operation at the Prosperity project with a 20-year mine life. Estimated measured and indicated resources for an open pit operation stand at 491 million tonnes grading 0.22% copper and 0.43 grams gold/tonne containing 2.3 billion tonnes of copper and 6.7 million ounces of gold.

Near Merritt, south-central BC, **Almaden Minerals Ltd.** [AMM-TSX] is drilling its Elk property where the Siwash Gold Mine is located. The property has produced gold in the past and the company has purchased a mill that was

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SKY.TSXV Stikine Gold Corporation

TWENTY
BILLION
DOLLAR
LEGEND

'A potential
discovery
of truly
gigantic
proportions'

Sullivan Production:
18,545,264,216 lbs Pb
17,514,325,312 lbs Zn
297,850,947 oz Ag
21,390,226 lbs Sn
11,258,323 lbs Cu



TWENTY
BILLION
DOLLAR
TARGET

'A good place to
look for a
mine is near an
existing one'

The prolific Sullivan Mine located at Kimberley, British Columbia, was in production for almost a century. The legendary deposit produced an estimated \$20 billion of base and precious metals over that time. This gigantic deposit formed in one of the world's richest mineralized corridors, and it has long been speculated that a sister deposit exists close by.

Past exploration for a similar deposit has quietly focused in the area immediately north of the famous mine, and has recently culminated in the identification of a 'big-sister' target, located in the same corridor, only four kilometres away from the Sullivan.

Stikine will begin a drilling program to test the 'Sullivan Deeps' in early 2004.

Sullivan Deeps

stikinegold.com

sullivandeeps.com