TGS→Forrest Kerr

an intercept, recompiled from 1984 drill core, of 1.17 g/t Au over 149 metres.

Silvertip Mining Corporation, a subsidiary of Imperial Metals Corp., performed 10 line kilometres of AMT electromagnetic survey in the area north of the portal on the Silvertip silver-lead-zinc prospect (104O 038). They looked for evidence of mantoes in the McDame limestone or underlying calcareous sandstone of the Sandpile Formation. This is a deeper stratigraphic horizon than targeted by previous exploration, which focused on the Earn-McDame unconformity. However, no anomalies that warrant drilling were found.

Five prospecting programs were partially funded by the Prospector Assistance Program. J. Peter Ross and Egil Livgard each pursued tantalum Regional Geochemical Survey anomalies that are associated with highly evolved granites of the Surprise Lake and Glundebery batholiths respectively, in search of a greisen or pegmatite deposit. These granites comprise part of a 200 km long, east west belt of late Cretaceous plutons that intrude rocks of the Cache Creek terrane. John Hope examined ultramafic-associated PGE and gold targets including the Blue River complex, 30 km north of Cassiar, and a nickel-silica hotspring deposit related to the Nahlin fault. Near the head of the Cottonwood River 145 km southwest of Watson Lake, Robert Russell looked for VMS mineralization in quartz sericite schist of the Paleozoic Ram Creek assemblage. These strata correlate with rocks of the Yukon-Tanana terrane. Erik Ostensoe and Tom Lisle explored a porphyry copper-gold and related epithermal system near Hatchau Lake (104J 015, 021) in the Sheslay district, 40 km northwest of Telegraph Creek.

Regional geochemical survey (RGS) results from the Dease Lake map area (NTS 104J) prompted a private syndicate to stake the Zah claims on a multi-sample tantalum-rare earth element anomaly near the head of Beatty Creek. On the claims, an intense gossan is developed in Quaternary rhyolite and trachyte of the Level Mountain volcanic complex. A mercury occurrence is noted in Minfile. The same group staked two base metal anomalies in the northeast sector of the map-area, looking for a massive sulphide deposit in Paleozoic to Triassic rocks.

ENERGY PROJECTS

Exploration for coalbed methane is proceeding in coal-bearing areas of the Province that are close to markets and gas pipelines. The Telkwa coalfield contains a potential CBM resource of 130 billion cubic feet and, considering its immediate proximity to the PNG pipeline, is well located for development. Auction of CBM rights is expected within one to two years. Sherritt International Corporation became owner of coal licenses at Telkwa by way of its takeover of Luscar Coal Ltd. in February 2001, but no development of the thermal coal deposit took place. No exploration of coal or coalbed methane potential elsewhere in the region, principally the Klappan and Groundhog coalfields, is planned at this time.

Coast Mountain Hydro Corp. investigated an 80-100 megawatt, run-of-river hydroelectric development in the Iskut River canyon, 15 kilometres northwest of Eskay Creek. The site is at the confluence with Forrest-Kerr Creek where Recent eruptions of basalt lava from a cone near Volcano Creek confined and, from time to time, blocked the Iskut River. The project contemplates diverting flow from the river into a 3.3 kilometre tunnel leading to an underground powerhouse. Only 15 megawatts would be generated during low winter flow. Five holes (184 metres total) were drilled, mainly into basalt at the proposed intake site. If built, a transmission line connecting to the Provincial grid will run alongside the Eskay Creek access road and Highway 37. The transmission line could stimulate mine development in the region.

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