

The proposed **Bralorne** gold mine project remains on care and maintenance status due to financing difficulties and the low price of gold. Financing difficulties have also affected the **Lumby** graphite-sericite project of The Quinto Mining Corp., which received a permit for a small mine in 1997.

Permitting is well underway for a basalt quarry and associated roofing granule processing plant at **Ashcroft**. The project is being developed by Ontario-based IG Machine and Fiber Ltd., a subsidiary of IKO Industries Ltd. A 500 tonne bulk sample and engineering and environmental studies were completed in 1998. Under the proposal, 250 000 tonnes per year of Nicola Group basalt would be mined, crushed, sized and coloured at the Ashcroft site, and then shipped to roofing shingle plants in Calgary, Alberta and Sumas, Washington. Unsuitable material would be marketed as fillers, road sand and pavement additives. The operation will employ 60-70 people and require a capital investment of \$20 million.

Also at Ashcroft, C2C Mining Corp. has built a \$1 million zeolite processing plant (Figure 8) to produce barn deodorizers, feed binders, cat litters and industrial absorbents. A packaging facility employing seven to twelve people is also planned. The plant has a capacity of 40 000 to 50 000 tonnes per year and will be supplied from the **Z2 zeolite deposit**, located east of Cache Creek.

The Z2 property was purchased from Highwood Resources Ltd. and includes a small quarry which is permitted to produce up to 10 000 tonnes per year. The Z2 deposit is reported to contain over two million tonnes of proven reserves (C2C Mining Corp. News Release, November, 1998), consisting of Eocene-aged, zeolite-altered volcanic ash and shales (MINFILE 92INW095).

Near Princeton, Western Industrial Clay Products Ltd. collected bulk samples of zeolite and mixed Ca-Na bentonite from the **Bee 1-6** (Allenby) and **Bud** properties, optioned from Gordon Webster. The materials are being tested for use in Western Industrial's absorbent products, and may be able to displace bentonite currently being imported from Wyoming.

Finally, Perlite Canada Inc. has applied to bring the **Frenier Perlite** mine back into production at a rate of 25 000 tonnes per year. Located west of Clinton, the mine produced about 6000 tonnes of raw perlite between 1983 and 1986. Perlite is hosted in volcanic rocks correlated with the Kamloops Group (MINFILE).

In the Kelowna area, L.& D. Petch Contracting has begun bulk sample quarrying at the **Gemini, Flag** and several other small quarries. Products are attractive gneiss and columnar basalt which are marketed as flagstone and landscape rock to the home construction industry, particularly in Alberta.



Figure 8. New zeolite processing plant and storage silos of C2C Mining Corp. at Ashcroft.

Handwritten notes: "Kamloops", "Roundup '99", and a signature.