

\*Decorative facing stone samples were collected from road accessible sites in the Smithers-Houston area for office display: Equity bladed feldspar gabbro and Nanika granite. Limestone yet to be collected from site near Granisle.

\*Fireweed core review begun. Little published material available in ARIS or elsewhere on this silver-lead-zinc prospect. Aim is to attract interest in it.

### MINESITE NEWS

- 1) \*Endako expects to mill 10.6 million tonnes at 0.131% MoS<sub>2</sub> in 1997 from 20.8 million tonnes of rock, producing 14.3 million pounds of molybdenum (Lyll Chapman, Minerals North). In addition to a 10 year ore reserve, Endako has an additional 10-12 year resource. Depending on approach taken by Thompson Creek Mining, \$1.5 million may be spent on exploration over the next 2-3 years and, if successful, production increased from nominal 30,000 tpd to 36,000 tpd. In conjunction with mine expansion the grinding and milling circuits would be further automated, a new crusher and a second roaster installed.
- 2) \*Snip mine operating costs increased to US \$204 per ounce compared to US \$185 in the first quarter of 1996, due to increased reliance on more labour intensive narrow vein mining methods. Completion of the Iskut road would help reduce costs.
- 3) \*Golden Bear has re-commenced site work on the gold heap leach operation. Two deep holes are being drilled on the Grizzly zone.
- 4) \*Table Mountain produced 1523 ounces of gold in the first quarter, down 16% from 1996. The mill was shut down for 5 weeks while development work was completed. Cusac lost \$1.38 million in the first quarter. Production throughout 1997 will come from the Vollaug vein. First quarter average grade was 0.354 oz/t Au but grade and ore production are expected to increase.
- 5) \*Premier Gold has been reviewed by about 6 companies (Canarc, Royal Oak, Treminco, Kinross?, etc). A tentative purchase agreement is expected by late June.

### EXPLORATION ACTIVITY

Red Cap

\*Claim staking continues to be active. Areas of note include Anyox, Todd Creek (reported last month), upper Copper River (near Smithers), Babine camp, north Iskut (Sphaler Creek) and Taku (Red Cap).

Sulphurets

\*Sulphurets-Bruceside (Brucejack) to be acquired by Treminco Resources Ltd. for \$4 million with closure on Sept 8. The property has a MDC and the company's intent is to place it into production as soon as possible. Treminco owns and operates the 275 tpd Ptarmigan gold mine near Yellowknife, and owns the idle Silvana mine/mill near New Denver.

Galore Cr.

\*Kennecott's 55% interest in the Galore porphyry copper deposit will be put up for sale. This is one of the premiere undeveloped resources in B.C. Total resource in three zones is 284 million tonnes at 0.67% Cu and about 0.38 g/t Au. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting owns the other 45%.

Wojdak - MR, May '97