

with up to 3% pyrite in sheared mafic tuff and is locally accompanied by bleaching and chlorite-sericite-ankerite-fuchsite(?) alteration of the mafic volcanic rocks.

Golden Bear is not typical of epithermal type deposits in that there are no well-defined veins or vein systems. Although the overall geometry is vein-like, the deposit is better described as a mineralized fault zone in contact with hydrothermally cemented chert/carbonate breccia along a structural dilatancy.

Specific deposit characteristics which generally support an epithermal classification as well as a conceptual genetic model for the formation of and mineralization in the Bear Main Zone is discussed in detail in Lehrman and Caddey (1989).

EPITHERMAL

## 2.5 WORK HISTORY

The remote and rugged nature of northwestern British Columbia has restricted mineral exploration to coastal areas until fixed wing aircraft and helicopters made inland access easier. The first claim staked near Bearskin Lake was in 1956 by K.A. Gamey (Nicko No. 30, Record No. 3077, Tag No. 228415; Titley, 1987) on some copper showings. Until 1980, no further exploration work was been recorded.

J.G. Souther (1971) of the Geological Survey of Canada mapped the Tulsequah map sheet (104K) providing the main regional geologic framework for the area.

In 1979-1980, C. Dyson of Chevron Minerals Ltd. (CML) was studying the epithermal gold potential of several areas in British Columbia (Wober and Shannon, 1985). A small reconnaissance program on the Tulsequah map sheet was conducted by L. Dick (CML) in 1980. The program was initially focused on alteration zones with associated antimony and arsenic occurrences north of Tatsamenie Lake (Wober and Shannon, 1985).

In 1981, CML staked 43,000 acres in 10 claim groups; one claim group included the Bear Main Zone (Wober and Shannon, 1985). During the summer of 1981, a reconnaissance soil traverse at 300 m sample spacing along the north side of the Bearskin Creek valley returned an assay value of 700 ppb Au. Follow-up contour soil sampling at 100 m spacing produced a high of 9,200 ppb Au from an area directly below what is now the Bear Main Zone. Grab samples taken in this area assayed up to 24.0 g/t Au (0.7 opt Au; Wober and Shannon, 1985).

In 1982, the Bear Main Zone was discovered and trenching, prospecting, chip sampling and mapping were carried out. Samples from the 13 m wide, 175 m long zone produced an average assay of 9.3 g/t Au (0.27 opt Au). Mineralization discovered in the Fleece