

TGS - Newman

**Schroeter, Tom EM:EX**

**From:** Gavin E. Dirom [gedpeng@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2004 2:27 PM  
**To:** Lefebure, Dave EM:EX  
**Cc:** Schroeter, Tom EM:EX  
**Subject:** Re: No Staking Reserve / Morice LRMP

Dave:

Thanks for the reply - I was recently made aware of the Morice final report and have looked at it. You are also then no doubt aware of the Morice LRMP's impact on areas of high mineral potential in the Nanika-Kidprice, Howson Range and Nadina regions as well as the Babine.

I have spent some time in this bay on Babine Lake and it is, like a thousand of other places in BC, a wonderful place to be. As a matter of interest, the bay was sounded in the 1960s through the ice in case it might be considered an appropriate tailings site but for a number of reasons, including the character of the site, the option was never seriously pursued.

Unfortunately parks, however small, can sterilized other resource values such as subsurface resources. I believe the Eskay mine covers only 22 hectares so the 848 hectare Sanctuary Bay proposal covers an area nearly 40 times as large. The Sullivan mine produced roughly 22 billion dollars over its life from an area of some 850 hectares ~ equivalent to the area of the proposed park.

Whether or not there is a viable deposit under the proposed protected area is unknown and that is the point - we don't know and with a park imposed over the area we will not find out. The area as you also pointed out is ranked as having high mineral potential so why sterilize such potential when only a small portion of BC is so ranked. Over the years, I spent many days on Babine Lake and I can tell you there are numerous marine and land areas in the region having park values that if so designated would likely not impact areas having significant mineral potential. One has to keep in mind that mineral potential estimates are only a snapshot in time and invariably will change over time as knowledge and commodity uses evolves but one should at least minimize impact on currently known areas having potential when there are other options available.

Currently mining operation occupy about 28,000 hectares throughout all of BC while parks and protected areas occupy nearly 13,000,000 hectares of BC's 94.8 million hectares - you can work out the percentages.

It would be informative to see the percentage of BC 's identified mineral potential by category that has and still is being sterilized by the land use process - possibly your ministry has these figures and maintains them as part of its mandate to manage subsurface resources throughout BC...?

For the record, I support protecting a representative cross section of unique settings across BC and recognize that in some cases other values may have to be sacrificed. However, disproportionate impacts on areas of high mineral potential can't be in the province's or the public's best interest considering subsurface resources and wealth belong to all British Columbians.

Gavin

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "Lefebure, Dave EM:EX" <Dave.Lefebure@gems8.gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** "Gavin Dirom (E-mail)" <gedpeng@shaw.ca>  
**Cc:** "Schroeter, Tom EM:EX" <Tom.Schroeter@gems6.gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2004 11:57 AM  
**Subject:** No Staking Reserve

**Schroeter, Tom EM:EX**

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*TS → Newman*

**From:** Lefebure, Dave EM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2004 11:58 AM  
**To:** Gavin Dirom (E-mail)  
**Cc:** Schroeter, Tom EM:EX  
**Subject:** No Staking Reserve

Gavin:

I did a little research and found out that the Morice LRMP identified Sanctuary Bay as a site for a small, new Marine Park and therefore a no staking reserve has been posted in the interim. The final report for the Morice LRMP is posted to the SRM web site - <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/lrmp/morice/>.

Dave

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**Schroeter, Tom EM:EX**

VGS → Bell  
Newman

**From:** Lefebure, Dave EM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2004 5:29 PM  
**To:** 'Gavin E. Dirom'  
**Cc:** Schroeter, Tom EM:EX  
**Subject:** RE: North Newman follow-up

Gavin:

Thanks for all the information regarding the North Newman Zone at Bell. Clearly it is an area with attractive mineral exploration potential. We zoned the area with the highest ranking for mineral potential and also include the Newman North zone in MINFILE. We never like to see lands with attractive mineral potential withdrawn.

Unfortunately I don't know the details of the Morice LRMP, but I do know that there was representation from industry.

I assume with the relatively small area protected by the No Staking Reserve (Sanctuary Bay Site No. 409651), that there were some other values that the LRMP was considering or specifically wished to protect. They would have known that the area has high mineral values which would have been further underlined by the location of the Bell mine just to the south.

In any case I will see what the rationale is for the No Staking Reserve.

Dave

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gavin E. Dirom [mailto:gedpeng@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2004 4:12 PM  
**To:** Lefebure, Dave EM:EX  
**Cc:** Schroeter, Tom EM:EX  
**Subject:** North Newman follow-up

Dave:

In case you don't recall the background on the North Newman zone at Bell, I've attached a scanned section from the February, 1974 CIM paper by Carson & Jambor plus a copy of the Sanctuary Bay No Staking Reserve. You may have to zoom the JPG graphics to read. The NSR was apparently established April 27, 2004 by regulation of the Chief Gold Commissioner. I wonder if anyone brought the North Newman information to the Morice LRMP participants - I know I wasn't contacted nor was I aware that the particular protected area was even being considered.

Are there parallelisms with LRMP outcomes and the current RAV debacle - could it be the process?

Gavin

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**From:** "Gavin E. Dirom" <gedpeng@shaw.ca>  
**To:** "Lefebure, Dave EM:EX" <Dave.Lefebure@gems8.gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** "Schroeter, Tom EM:EX" <Tom.Schroeter@gems6.gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2004 11:58 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Graphic

Dave:

I was talking with Tom Schroeter this morning and mentioned to him that I had recently learned there has been a No Staking Reserve (Sanctuary Bay Site No. 409651) established over the North Newman zone which lies just north of the Bell open pit as a result of the Morice LRMP. These LRMP processes are hitting close to home as this area on the Newman Peninsula was staked by my crew in the 1960s with claims named after my wife. The first hole I spotted on the North Newman intersected interesting copper mineralization in a feldspar porphyry. While subsequent holes were less encouraging, the geological setting is similar to that found at Bell, Granisle and Morrison with mappable alteration patterns /

pyrite halo and structures that trace through the main zone at Bell. Various ministry and CIM papers published on Bell and the Babine area in general clearly show the geological setting and potential. In my view, the potential for mineralization at depth accessible by underground methods or precious &/or base metal targets between North Newman and the Bell pit has not been eliminated.

LRMP outcomes such as this never cease to amaze me. In my view the province (MEM specifically) has to take responsibility of ensuring that known subsurface opportunities are not unduly impacted in this manner. I gather there were other identified mineral resources impacted by the Morice LRMP.

I should have got back to you and thank you for sending the graphic - much appreciated. It was your comment re Bell that prompted my sending this email to you.

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