

## Brynelsen Seeks Gold In Rossland Volcanics



Bernard O. Brynelsen, P.Eng.

Bernard Brynelsen has several lifetimes of experience in the mining industry - and the list of accomplishments to prove it.

It's difficult to find an area in Western Canada that he hasn't poked around in, or a metal or mineral he hasn't searched for and found.

With "about eleven mines" to his credit it seems reasonable to expect that he might be interested in settling down into a comfortable and well-earned retirement. Like Frank Sinatra he's tried a few times, but the mining bug is just too firmly entrenched for golf games and bridge to make any kind of lasting impression.

So retirement just means taking on a few less projects, attending one or two less board meetings, and maybe delegating a few more details to the new crop of up-and-comers.

During his long association with Noranda Explorations, Brynelsen was known simply as the company's "Man in the West". Along with his eastern counterpart, Dr. Archie Bell, he was responsible for the exceptional success of Noranda Explorations in the field.

That's not to downplay Brynelsen's own efforts to bring into production Brenda Mines' large, low grade copper-molybdenum orebody in the Okanagan. With the help of partners Morris Menzies and Mervyn Davis, his work resulted in the successful bringing onstream (at the rate of 20,000 tons per day), of one of the lowest grade copper/moly projects in the world.

Large volume, low cost open pit mining was the modus operandi for this profitable operation.

Few may realize it, but Brynelsen played the key role in the discovery of coal in Northeast British Columbia. He got the ball rolling by hiring a couple of university professors from Pennsylvania to check out some land he was examining for a company called Bermuda Resources. After they gave the property a negative once-over, the two coal experts hired on sabbatical found themselves with nothing to do. Brynelsen sent them out on general reconnaissance and they came back excited about the region's potential to host coal deposits. The first hole drilled by Bermuda hit "beautiful" coal; Bermuda staked ground; Denison caught wind and got in the act; Teck bought out Bermuda (Brynelsen's Noranda loyalty then prompted his exodus from Bermuda); and the rest is history.

Brynelsen later teamed up with Donald Carmichael, who as president of Goldbelt Mines Ltd., assembled the Wenatchee Property package subsequently put into production by Asamera and Breakwater. More recently, Brynelsen and Carmichael founded the highly successful Viceroy Resource Corporation.

Even with all these accomplishments, there are still a few more things Brynelsen wants to do before retiring in earnest. Foremost among them he wants to see the revival of the Rossland Camp; one of B.C.'s richest gold camps, second only to the Bridge River/Bralorne area.

Along with Donald Carmichael Brynelsen founded Bryndon Ventures Inc., an Alberta corporation involved in several Canadian mineral projects and oil and gas exploration in Alberta. It also has a sulphur fertilizer division. But Brynelsen says he is particularly excited about the company's holdings in the Rossland Mineral Belt located in southeastern British Columbia. Rossland is the site of the famous LeRoi Mine which produced approximately three million ounces of gold from 6.2 million

tons of ore while recovering 0.47 ounces of gold per ton. The majority of this bullion was extracted in the first quarter of this century and effective production at the LeRoi ceased in the 1930's.

"I've been interested in the camp since my university days," says Brynelsen who began looking to acquire a land position in the camp as far back as 1947. "It was pretty difficult," he admits, "This is where Consolidated Mining & Smelting (Cominco Ltd.) got their start in gold before going into base metals at Trail so they had the ground pretty much tied up." He did manage, however, to pick up some ground and begin the land acquisition program which is still ongoing with Bryndon Ventures.

"We have a big piece of ground there and I have some theories on it; I like the geology and I like the potential. But I'm retired now and don't want to operate it so I've brought in a partner, a company called Antelope Resources which has good engineers and geologists. We're busy drilling it right now."

The Bryndon-Antelope joint venture controls approximately 1,800 acres in the Rossland area which Brynelsen believes has many similarities to the Wenatchee region of Washington State. Bryndon Ventures also has a gold project near Revelstoke and some mineral properties in Ontario.

The 1988 work program for the Rossland Claims calls for \$2 million of exploration work on the property.

"Our ground goes up to one thousand feet of the Old Leroi Mine," Brynelsen said. "I'm real excited about its potential and have a feeling there's more than just the one mine there. After all, you go to find new mines where the old ones were."

According to Bryndon Ventures, recent work in Rossland has confirmed the presence of mineralized structures grading in excess of eight ounces of gold per ton.

"I think it's the biggest sleeper in North America," Brynelsen says. "What other mining camp has produced over \$2 billion of gold from one orebody? I'm really hot on it."

"I want this one to be a success," he adds. "It's my last fling in mining and I want it to be a big one."