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Ruddock Cr.

broker's picks



Selkirk Metals ready to advance Ruddock Creek towards development

by Alf Stewart

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Selkirk Metals Corp. [SLK-TSXV] is a Vancouver-based exploration company with a portfolio of lead-zinc properties in B.C. The most advanced property and the one showing clear signs of being a major discovery is Ruddock Creek. This is a 70/30 joint venture with **Doublestar Resources Ltd.** [DSR-TSXV] in which Selkirk has earned a 70% interest under an option granted by Doublestar. Selkirk Metals Corp. acquired its option on the property as a result of a Plan of Arrangement from **Cross Lake Minerals Ltd.** [CRN-TSX]. The road-accessible property is 100 kilometres northwest of Revelstoke and about 25 kilometres from all necessary infrastructure.

Ruddock Creek has a long history of exploration. Prior to the current joint venture, the property was held and explored by **Falconbridge** and **Teck Cominco** with most activity taking place from 1960 to 1977. The eastern end of the Ruddock Creek lead-zinc zone, referred to as the **E Zone**, has had the most drilling by Falconbridge and Teck Cominco and a resource estimate of 4 million tonnes of 10% combined lead-zinc was calculated based on its work before Local Policy NI 43-101 was implemented. Since that time, Selkirk has expanded the E Zone significantly, and drilled successfully beyond a fault which was assumed to truncate the mineralization on its western edge.

Selkirk has extended the zone well beyond this fault to a length of more than one kilometer. The zone can be visualized as a moderately plunging elongate lens which dips to the north. Consequently, it is difficult to explore by surface drilling to the west at depth. The zone plunges at a shallow angle into the mountain and has been drilled along its strike length (see attached illustration). It is practical to put a **decline (sloping tunnel)** into the western end of the E Zone and explore the strike length of the zone from underground. This is what Selkirk proposes to do commencing in the spring of 2007. The proposed decline

could ultimately be used for production after further exploration is completed and subject to a positive feasibility study.

Based on previous exploration and a recent airborne geophysical survey, Selkirk was able to project the westward continuation of the Ruddock Creek Zone and focus exploration where the zone is expected to outcrop at its western end. This is five kilometres from the E Zone. Surprisingly, evidence of the zone was found at surface in the projected area, referred to as **Oliver Creek**. The **tonnage implications** of the extension of mineralization all the way to **Oliver Creek** could be significant. Most of the five-kilometre strike length between **E Zone** and **Oliver Creek** remain unexplored and it is Selkirk's intention to conduct further exploration along the area in 2007.

Selkirk believes the Ruddock Creek deposit is a **metamorphosed SEDEX-type deposit equivalent to the former Sullivan mine** at Kimberley, B.C., except that the rocks have been subjected to such **extreme temperature and pressure conditions** that they have behaved like plastic and deformed somewhat. What was once a series of lead- and zinc-rich sedimentary beds have now been squeezed and stretched into a series of lenses. This is both good and bad. On one hand, structural thickening can occur. Intercepts on the **E Zone** have exceeded 46 metres in thickness and on the **Creek Zone**

are up to 10 metres in thickness. On the other hand, the zone can **pinch out** and be discontinuous. Selkirk has also mentioned in its disclosures that the zone is crosscut by **pegmatite dikes and sills**.

Investors can look forward to a **NI 43-101-compliant resource calculation** in the spring and a **preliminary economic evaluation of the deposit** incorporating this resource. From that point, the company can add to the resource through underground exploration, something that has never been undertaken at Ruddock Creek.

Management of the company, **Gordon Keevil**, president, and **Jim Miller-Tait**, vice-president of exploration, are confident that in this era of strong zinc prices, Ruddock Creek will be a winner. ■

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