

# EXPLORATION ROUNDUP

Swan/Rap

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**Gibraltar Mines Ltd.** reports further good assays from 10 holes drilled with multiple intersections at the Gibraltar North copper-zone of the Gibraltar mine. It is located near McLeese Lake, British Columbia. The best grade was 1.09% copper over 50 ft at a depth of 380 ft; the best intersection was 390 ft grading 0.38% copper at a depth of 300 ft. Assays range from the high cited to 0.27%. ■

**International Musto Explorations Ltd.** released the results of four diamond drill-holes that were part of an 8,000 m drilling program and the final feasibility study of the Bajo de la Alumbrera copper/gold porphyry deposit in northwestern Argentina.

One angled hole was drilled in the central section of the main enriched porphyry system, where primary production is expected to begin. Two holes were collared in the southern portion of the deposit. One hole confirmed continuous ore-grade material to a depth of 402 m, suggesting the enlargement of the potential mineable reserves beyond current pit-design limits. The best average copper grade was 1.37% (plus 2.31 g/mt gold) over 51 m at a 291 m depth; the thickest intercept was 387 m at a depth of 6 m and graded 0.94% copper (plus 1.25 g/mt gold).

Current reserves are estimated at 337 million mt proven-and-probable averaging 0.53% copper plus 0.70 g/mt gold to a cut-off depth of 300 m. ■

In the course of its exploration for diamonds, **Aaron Oil Corp.** has staked an additional 350,000 acres in the Sturgeon Lake and Fort A La Corne diamond district of north-central Saskatchewan. This solidified the company's land position, now at 1.5 million acres, following evaluation of the fall drilling program that intersected a visually identifiable kimberlite horizon. ■

**Cominco Resources International Ltd.** announced a new center of mineralization on its Cerattepe property in Artvin Province, (northeastern) Turkey. A vertical diamond drill-hole, CTD-111, testing weak EM response, intersected massive sulphides at a depth of 153-175 m. The 22 m intercept averaged 3% copper. A higher grade section of the zone assayed 4% copper over 8 m at a 153 m depth. Typical stringer-zone mineralization, visually estimated to grade about one percent copper occurs in the footwall over a thickness of 50 m below the massive sulphides. But assays for that section were not available at press time.

Hole CTD-111 is located about 500 m from the fault-controlled northern boundary of the Cerattepe property. In-fill drilling has just been completed on 30 m centers. Updated tonnage and grade results, based upon 55 diamond drill-holes and 35

RC holes have been obtained, showing a substantial increase in the copper contained in the high-grade zone.

Ore reserves are now estimated to be 1.2 million mt grading 10% copper (allowing for dilution). The gently dipping, high-grade zone is overlain by an additional 4 million mt lower-grade mineralization averaging 2% copper. Drilling in 1992 confirmed the presence of a gold-and-silver-rich oxide zone; preliminary estimates exceed 1 million mt grading 3 g/mt gold and 150 g/mt silver. Metallurgical-engineering and scope-definition studies are underway to facilitate an early production decision. Underground mining of the high-grade zone is being considered, as well as the potential for concurrent or sequential open-pitting of the oxide precious-metals and lower-grade-copper zones.

Additionally, a new zone of mineralization, known as the Kardelen zone, has been discovered. A single drill hole, located 500 m north of the known deposit intercepted 22 m massive sulphides (153-175 m depth) with an average grade of 3% copper. Two drills will conduct appropriate follow-up diamond drilling.

Elsewhere, one of three holes at the Trabzon prospect (also in northeastern Turkey) intersected massive sulphide mineralization over a narrow width, but with (undisclosed) "excellent precious- and base-metal values." A follow-up program to locate greater thicknesses of this mineralization will be undertaken in 1993. ■

**Azco Mining Inc.** completed the first 26 holes of its Phase II definition-drilling program at its wholly owned Piedras Verdes oxide-copper project. The property is located in southern Sonora, Mexico.

A new zone, west of the Main oxide-copper zone, was found. Drilling confirmed that it contains a high-grade, enriched-copper, chalcocite blanket adjacent to the northwestern portion of the Main oxide-copper zone. Thus far, nine holes have been drilled into the blanket, averaging 0.83% copper over a 110 ft thickness. The zone is over 450 x 1,500 ft and is open to the north and west. The blanket was discovered by two drill holes that intersected 100 ft grading 0.95% copper and 130 ft averaging 0.43% all under a barren outcrop. An angle hole found a 50 ft thickness of 4.11% copper.

Drilling in 1992 included 60 RC holes and 20,000 ft.

The Main zone is 2.7 km x 1,650 ft and 210 ft thick; it is open to the north, east, and west. Current drilling confirms two distinct ore zones, the west being high grade and shallow, the central and east being lower grade but thicker.

Preliminary column-leach tests suggest that acid consumption will be low since the

ore is largely composed of quartz and sericite. The ore is highly fractured and porous, with recoveries of up to 96% being achieved, from minus-1-in. ore, in 33 days.

The company now believes that its original estimate of a 0.33% copper ore-grade was too conservative. Some 90-100 additional holes are scheduled to be drilled in the center and eastern portions of the ore-body. A comprehensive ore reserve estimate is expected to be completed in early 1993, and will be followed by a bankable feasibility study. ■

**Stratabound Minerals Corp.** has purchased 100% of two base-metal properties formerly owned by **Firesteel Resources Inc.** Under the purchase agreement, Stratabound made a cash payment of \$60,000 plus \$40,000 in shares. A 1% NSR royalty will be retained by Firesteel.

The properties are located in the Aiken Lake area of northeastern British Columbia. They cover highly prospective sedimentary rock that is currently being explored by several international zinc producers. Access is by forestry roads 200 km from Mackenzie.

The 2,600 acre Swan property covers 15 km<sup>2</sup> of multiple, high-contrast, lead-and-zinc soil-anomalies. It is underlain by the Earn group rocks, a proven host to major zinc-lead deposits such as the Cirque (52 million mt grading 8% zinc and 2% lead). A portion of the property was explored for zinc 20 years ago, when a number of high-value soil geochemical and geophysical anomalies were found. Several grab samples have returned assays up to 9.2% zinc and 2.5% lead. Detailed soil geochemical and geophysical surveys and trenching is planned.

The 1,730 acre Rap property is located some 32 km south of the Swan. Stratabound zinc-and-lead mineralization has been found on an adjacent property being explored by another Canadian company. Preliminary work has found anomalous zinc-and-lead values in soils and stream sediments. ■

**Tan Range Exploration Corp.** has acquired, through its wholly owned operating subsidiary, a 9 km<sup>2</sup> diamond concession in Tanzania. The concession has only become available due to the country's liberalized trade and economic development initiatives. Some 76 diamonds were recovered from the property in a test in 1968. And the property has several circular magnetic-anomalies that appear to be similar to magnetic signatures of diamiferous pipes in the vicinity of the license area. There has been no known exploration since 1968. The site is located 65 km north of the Williamson diamond mine (17 million ct diamonds to date). ■