

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Mike Hudock

Note on your calendar August 1-3 for Ymir reunion days, for those of you who plan on attending a little history in the town of Ymir. (Wimer)

According to Scandinavian mythology, the name Ymir was that of the progenitor of the giants who arose through the interworking of heat and cold in the primeval abyss. Ymir was slain by Odin and his brothers Vili and Ve and out of his body they created the world. Ymir's flesh became the land, his bones the mountains, his blood the lakes and streams, his hair the forests, his skull the heavens and his brains the clouds.

According to records the Hall brothers located claims on Wildhorse Creek near Ymir in 1885. However due to the lack of roads they continued on to the Nelson area and discovered the Silver King mine.

In the summer of 1895 the Ymir gold deposit was staked and this also started a staking rush in the area. This staking activity did not go unnoticed and the American railroad magnate D.C. Corbin completed a railroad from Northport to Nelson. With the completion of this railroad the little place known as Quartz Creek became Ymir which blossomed as a major mining community.

By 1900 Ymir boasted 13 saloons which indicated that many mining men were thirstier than ordinary people. You still can have a drink in the last standing saloon and become a part of the history.

There was mention of a person when asked about the town and weather indicated some dissatisfaction. "When twas wet it was too wet, and when twas dry it was too dry, and when twas hot it went to extremes. I can't

say I like this place, there isn't much difference to the prairies only one can't see as far for the mountains."

The Ymir mine boasted the largest mill in the British Empire and was equipped with a 80 ton stamp mill. At the peak of production there was a total of one hundred and forty stamps in the vicinity of Ymir. One old timer said that you could hear the noise from miles around and had to use hand signals on some mill sites. I wonder what would happen to the WCB if they said something had to be done to lessen the noise or else?

Although the Ymir mine was the largest mine in the area, producing approximately 327,646 tons, there was a mine which produced more. It was the Yankee Girl - 370,616 tons. (Figures by Ken Murray working on the history of Ymir mines and townsite). The value of all the ore mined by the various mines in today's dollars - \$175,757,696. I'm sure there will

## CHAMBER REPORT

by Dennis Llewellyn

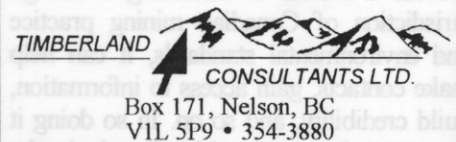
Activities at the Chamber have been a little quiet, what with KEG happening in Kamloops. The Gold Panning Course scheduled for April 17th and 18th did not happen, because we didn't have enough participants to run one. Hopefully we will run both a gold panning course and gemstone course later this spring.

Out of town visitors are beginning to pick up. We have had quite a few from the few active mining areas, such as Highland Valley Copper employees, and the north country.

Good news....The provincial government has come through with a grant of \$5000.00, we applied for \$15,000.00 but are happy to get any.

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be many old stories told during this reunion and you should become a part of the history. Don't miss the opportunity!! ■

*The Mother Lode  
May '98*

The Chamber will have some extra Ministry of Mines Annual reports for sale by way of a silent auction at the June meeting. We will sell only duplicate copies we don't need. Drop by to see a copy of our complete list of duplicate books. The list will also be made available to those in other communities; you can bid by mail too (though your chances will be better if you are present!)

Thanks to my wife Cathy for coming in and doing a spring clean up in the Chamber. Hopefully we will be able to plant the garden a little earlier this year. ■

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# BC & YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT PATHWAYS '98 (PART 3)

by H. W. Sellmer, President

Like the Chamber, our industry has to retool its approaches. I am constantly amazed how much alike the concerns and attitudes expressed at home and abroad are. We are often accused of running to third world countries because the environmental standards are more lax there. I believe that in such countries we have an even greater obligation to conduct our business to the highest standards if we are ultimately to succeed. The Chamber can provide a means of informing a foreign jurisdiction of Canadian mining practice and environmental standards, it can help make contacts, gain access to information, build credibility, and so on. In so doing it can serve its membership. People in the exploration industry know that cyclical lows are a good time to prepare for opportunity, to build a stronger foundation for the future, and because they are in fact cyclical, there are better times ahead, not like the old times but better times nonetheless.

The Canadian mining industry is exporting expertise second to none in the world in terms of technology and high standards of environmental practice. And yet we are too often falsely accused of causing damage when in fact the economic and social benefits which accrue from our activities are huge. How many of you know that the Sullivan

Mine produced revenues of \$19 billion over its 90 plus year life from an affected area of less than 750 hectares, all of which will be completely reclaimed? If this is not the best land use, I'd like to know what is?

While exploration expenditures in the province have declined markedly, in the other provinces they have grown steadily and have skyrocketed elsewhere in the world. There ARE new mines opening in British Columbia, but the level of early stage exploration has declined to near zero. Coupled with the reduction in lands open to exploration, the reduced generative expenditure level bodes ill for the future of mining.

What can be done to attract the available dollars?

If the opportunity is provided, the dollars will come. We need greater access to lands at the early stages of exploration, which leave almost no trace on the land. For example, the pristine area now supposedly preserved by Northern Rockies and other parks and the surrounding 3.3 million hectares of Special Management Zones - the Muskwa Kechika - is one of the prime remaining areas for the discovery of a major lead-zinc deposit in this province. In the mid-seventies most of this area was covered by mining claims.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Advertising and articles for and by the membership are part of this newsletter, and may be submitted on disk as MSWorks, MSWord, WP, MS RTF or IBM DCA files and/or as hard copy. Articles should not exceed 500 words except by arrangement, and may be edited. Deadline for June edition: May 16th for publication May 30th. Late copy will be used the following month.

*Restriction of early stage exploration denies economic opportunity for no sound reason.*

The industry needs security of tenure. If land is to be taken for other uses, fair compensation should be promptly provided under a clearly defined process. The rules of the game must be fair and reasonable, clearly spelled out and rationally administered.

*If one follows the rules, one should have the right to mine.*

These are the key concerns of industry today. Obviously, taxation and other issues also decide how competitive a jurisdiction will be in attracting investment, but if you cannot mine a deposit when you have discovered it, why look for it in the first place? ■

## MEETINGS & SYMPOSIA

### CHAMBER OF MINES OF EASTERN BC:

'98 MEMBERSHIPS NOW DUE (PLEASE SEND IN A \$30.00 CHECK!)  
Board meeting: May 21st 7 PM.

### CIM CENTENNIAL CONVENTION: MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

May 3-7: Palais de Congres de Montreal.  
Info: Ph. 514-939-2710 Ext. # 304 or 305.

### 7TH ANNUAL BC OPEN GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

VERNON PLACER MINER'S CLUB  
May 16-17; Cherryville BC. Spectators welcome. Events for youngsters. Chili contest 'Claim Staking' competition. Pig Roast. Antique engine display. Tours. Sing-a-long (FUN.) Ph. 250-542-0494 or 250-547-2025.

Further details of all these events available at the Chamber.

### INDUSTRIAL MINERALS COURSE

May 29-30 (Class Instruction), May 31-June 1 Field trips. Sponsored by MEI and the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines to introduce the IM potential of the East Kootenays. Location: College of the Rockies (Cranbrook Campus) \$200/student. Field trip included but students responsible for own transportation, meals and accommodation. For info phone 250-489-8237.

### FOCUS ON INDUSTRIAL MINERALS 1998,

October 20-23, Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Canadian deposits, markets, bulk transportation and investment opportunities. For more information contact: S. Dunlop, CEOR, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3055, Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8W 3P6; Fax: 250 472-4100; e-mail sdunlop@uvic.ca.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**\$1 per line (about 5 to 10 words). Minimum \$5. Deadlines as stated for articles. Please contact the Chamber (352-5242).**

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**Note: the views of contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Chamber.**