

104P

*Erickson*

\* Cusac Industries **Table Mountain** gold mine (104P 070) was visited on June 7 with mine manager Martin Sadd. There are 25 employees on site. Stopes are accessed by decline, the main stope is 100 meters long and is being mined to surface with development waste to be used as backfill. A dike wanders parallel to the vein and results in dilution where it is in the hangingwall. The mill is operating near capacity at 280 tons per day on ore from the Bain vein but will reduce to 4 weeks operation and 2 weeks shutdown beginning at the end of June as the mining rate is about 50% of mill capacity. Mill head grade is 0.55 opt Au and mining cut-off is 0.2 opt Au (or 0.25 opt if development is required). Gold recovery is 93%; 45-55% is recovered on site by table and jig with the balance shipped to the Trail smelter as sulphide concentrate (Premier Gold is unable to accept more than Snip sulphide concentrate). Gold production cost is \$150 per ounce. Historic production from the listwanite-associated quartz veins by Erickson and Cusac is 266,900 oz of gold and 167,000 oz of silver from 572,400 tons at a mill head grade of 0.42 opt. The steeply dipping Bain quartz vein is 1-2 meters wide and contains 5-15% sulphide, primarily pyrite with lesser sphalerite, tetrahedrite, arsenopyrite and moderately coarse gold. Gold is enriched on the footwall side of the Bain vein in ribbon bands of fine grained sulphide. The hangingwall side comprises brecciated quartz with a sulphide matrix and is not ore grade. Late cross fractures contain quality pyrite crystals but no gold. The vein maintains ore grade to the lowest level of development and a crosscut is planned to conduct exploration drilling below the level. Cusac plans a major EM, trenching and drilling exploration program on the Sky, Katherine, Hot, Heather, Bain, Old tailings pond, Pooley Ck, Hunter, Elan, Newcoast (Reo?) veins and Lang Ck massive sulphide targets.

\* **Cassiar** (104P 005) mine site was visited on June 7 with site manager Jim Doucet. A 10-person crew awaits B.C. Chrysofile's decision to install a \$5 million wet-milling pilot plant. Reserves are approximately 25 million tonnes grading 4.2% asbestos in a low-grade stockpile (waste from the former dry-milling operation) determined by drilling on 30 metre centers in the mid 1980's. A production plant to produce low grade, cement quality asbestos (and possibly a higher grade product) has not been designed yet. High quality asbestos underground reserves in the McDame deposit were estimated at 16 million tonnes (10 years of production) in 1989. The loss of mining infrastructure where substantial reserves remain is not in the interest of a sustainable mining industry in British Columbia. Currently the town-site resembles a tornado aftermath, complete buildings stand next to demolished remains and widespread debris.

\* Increased activity was found in the **Atlin placer gold camp** during a visit to the area on June 9-11. Purpose of my visit was to determine:

- type of ground being worked (tailings, known gravels that are deeply covered, newly discovered paleochannels etc)
- the geology of paygravels
- problems and/or limitations, are they technical or regulatory
- application of GSB research, eg Vic Levson's surficial geology map
- economic significance of placer mining
- future of placer mining, is it limited or long-term.

More than a 3 days will be required to answer these questions but it is readily apparent that placer mining could continue as a viable industry for tens of years, subject to economic parameters and regulations. Some observations:

- at least 3 seismic surveys are planned to detect buried Tertiary channels, "new" exploration technology for the Atlin camp