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George Cross News Letter

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AVINO MINES & RESOURCES LTD.

[AVO-V] 17,289,221 SHS.

BRALORNE-PIONEER GOLD MINES LTD.

[BPN-V] 4,466,100 SHS.

BRALORNE GOLD MINE TO RE-OPEN - Louis Wolfin, president, Avino Mines & Resources Ltd. and Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mines Ltd., reports the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has granted a Mine Development Certificate to re-open the historic Bralorne Gold Mine near Goldbridge, southwestern B.C. The Mine Development Certificate allows Avino and 50/50 joint venture partner Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mines to immediately complete development and final permitting to re-open the mine. The Certificate approves a \$27,000,000, five-year, 450 tonne-per-day operation.

In a letter to Mr. Wolfin, B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt stated that he is, "excited about the significant contributions the Bralorne Mine will have on the local economy and on the provincial economy as well". The operation is expected to provide about 150 jobs and revitalize an area that until now has relied primarily on seasonal tourism to generate employment.

The premier also noted that, "The revitalization and use of existing infrastructure for the operation makes excellent financial sense", referring to the fact that much of the original mine infrastructure remains in place with ample power and road access.

Bralorne, which includes the adjoining King and Pioneer mines, was the richest gold producer in B.C. history. Over its 50-plus years of operation, the mine's output exceeded 4,100,000 ounces of gold (worth some US \$1.5 billion today) from ore averaging more than half an ounce of gold per ton. The operation provided much employment, and the mining town of Bralorne at the time supported more the 10,000 residents. The mine closed in 1970 due to low gold prices.

Avino has explored the Bralorne area for many years, and in 1991 it acquired the mine from Corona Corp. and its partners. New gold discoveries by Avino on adjoining ground later provided to be extensions of zones originally mined by Bralorne and King operations.

The new discoveries provided Avino and Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mines with a number of targets for mine expansion. In addition, both Corona and Avino/Bralorne-Pioneer Gold Mines identified significant reserves that remained at the time of the 1970 mine closure. By combining the two targets, the companies identified significant ore and potential ore to justify re-opening the mine. (SEE GCNL NO.40, 27Feb95, P.1 FOR PREVIOUS PROJECT INFORMATION)

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