



Newfoundland
and Labrador



MINFO

Mineral Resources
INFORMATION

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THIS ISSUE

*Value of Mineral Shipments
Remains Stable*

*Baie Verte Mining Conference a
Success*

Mineral Exploration Update

*Short Course on Prospecting
Techniques and Mineralizing
Environments*

*Geological Survey Field Program
- 1998*

*Prospectors Training Program
Successful*

Recent Developments

*Voisey's Bay and Beyond
Conference Well Attended*

New Mining Projects

*The Bell Island Community
Museum*

Upcoming Events



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

Department of
Mines and Energy

Mines Branch



*Noveder Inc.
Diamond drilling on the Cabot Property*



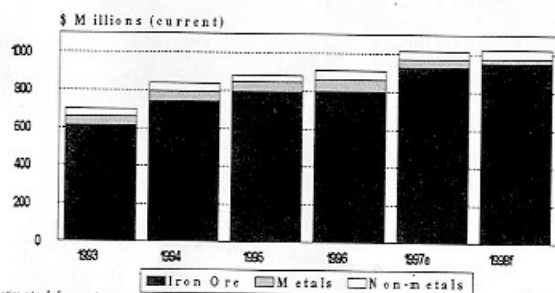
*Buchans River Ltd.
Basal till sampling on the Buchans Property*

Value of Mineral Shipments Remains Stable

The total value of Newfoundland and Labrador's mineral shipments in 1998 is forecast to be \$1.023 billion, a slight increase over the 1997 preliminary total of \$1.018 billion. The province's mineral industry produces over a dozen mineral commodities that contribute significantly to our economy. Many of these commodities are critical ingredients for construction, and for products used daily.

Shipments of industrial minerals, or non-metals such as dolomite, gypsum, peat, slate, brick, cement, magnetite, stone, and sand and gravel, accounted for approximately \$46 million of the 1997 total, and this will remain at the same level for 1998. Metals, including iron ore products, gold, and copper, account for the remainder of the mineral production. Gold is forecast to decrease from \$43 million in 1997 to \$24 million in 1998; the closure of Royal Oak Mines and the shutdown of Ming Minerals have offset Richmond Mines' increased production. The value of iron ore shipments is forecast to increase in 1998 due to continued strength in production and prices. Western Labrador produces approximately 55 percent of Canada's iron ore products.

Newfoundland and Labrador
Value of Mineral Shipments



Estimate & forecast
Source: Natural Resources Canada
1997a, 1998j - Dept of Mines and Energy

Baie Verte Mining Conference a Success

The Baie Verte and area Chamber of Commerce hosted its 11th Annual Mining Conference in Baie Verte, Newfoundland, from June 19th to 21st. The Conference was an opportunity for people in the mining/geological industry and the investment community to exchange information and ideas pertaining to the industry.

The opening dinner on Friday night featured the Hon. Charles Furey as guest speaker. This was followed by several technical presentations on Saturday. Allan Cramm and Barry Hummer gave an update of Richmond Mines' Nugget Pond operation; Colleen Leeder of Jacques Whitford on Environmental Assessment

Planning; Susan Scott of GeoScott on West Coast Seismic Activity; Alain Morissette of Noveder on Exploration in the Baie Verte area; and, Dave Stonehouse of Atlantic Minerals on the history of Atlantic Minerals.

On Saturday, an exhibition was also held for companies and individuals to display their products and services.

The Conference concluded on Sunday with a boat tour to the Dorset Eskimo Quarry in Fleur de Lys.

Mineral Exploration Update June, 1998

Exploration expenditures for 1998 are forecast to be \$50 million, a decrease of 34% from 1997 levels. The remaining exploration statistics - claims staked, claims in good standing and diamond drilling also reflects this decrease; however, exploration levels are still significantly higher than the pre-Voisey's Bay discovery.

Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Ltd. continues to aggressively explore its Voisey's Bay and Kiglapait Mountain claims. A deep-penetrating airborne transient electromagnetic geophysical survey capable of detecting mineralization to depths of over 400 m was completed over 75% of the claimed area in early 1998. Final processed results from this survey are expected in time for verification and testing during the summer field season. In addition, four diamond drill rigs are currently active in the immediate Voisey's Bay deposit area. Targets being drilled and tested include the Ovoid, Southeast Extension, Eastern Deeps and the Red Dog grid.

On June 12, 1998, **Inco Limited** announced that the company and Fort Knox Gold Resources are forming a strategic alliance to explore for nickel-copper-cobalt deposits outside of the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Ltd. claims. Fort Knox and Inco will form joint ventures on any properties acquired, with Fort Knox funding the first \$3 million of exploration.

Donner Minerals Ltd./Teck Exploration Ltd. and their joint venture partners are continuing with the \$9.2 million phase one of a \$14.8 million two-phase exploration program designed to test for Voisey's Bay-type mineralization on its Voisey's Bay South property located 90 km south of Voisey's Bay. Phase one exploration includes gravity and electromagnetic surveys with 22 150 m of diamond drilling. The 1998 drill results remain confidential.

Gallery Resources Limited completed 90 km of line-

cutting and a large-loop electromagnetic surface geophysical survey (UTEM 3) on its Okak Bay property; and 40 km of line-cutting and a UTEM 3 survey on its Harp Lake 2 property in 1998. Some downhole geophysical surveys have also been completed, and geophysical results are being evaluated. Diamond drilling is planned.

Cartaway Resources Corporation and International CanAlaska Resources Inc. completed a \$100 000 ground magnetic and large-loop time-domain electromagnetic survey over two airborne magnetic conductors on its SVB-1 property, 7 km south of the Donner/Teck exploration site. Some drilling may be completed in 1998.

Freeport Resources Inc. will conduct detailed ground geophysics and till and soil sediment sampling to establish drill targets on its 2034-claim Torngat property. Exploration is directed toward the diamond potential of the area.

Leader Mining International Inc. has acquired, through option, over 50 sq km of land in the immediate area of the Voisey's Bay deposit. Claims have been optioned from Ivory Oils & Minerals, NDT Ventures, International Northair Mines, Lucero Resources, Layfield Resources and Celtic Minerals. Gravity surveys, as follow up to airborne geophysical surveys, designed to identify diamond drill surveys, are ongoing.

On June 11, 1998, **Buchans River Ltd.** announced that it had signed a letter agreement with Phelps Dodge Corporation of Canada Ltd. to acquire a 100% interest in 37 claims in the Buchan area, central Newfoundland. Buchan River Ltd. now owns much (758 claims) of the Buchans River Formation productive horizon in the former-producing Buchans Mining Camp, including the Oriental and Old Buchans mines, part of the Lucky Strike mine, and the Clementine and Middle Branch prospects and various other prospects in the area. A geological compilation of the entire Buchans camp is ongoing. A till geochemical program was completed recently for the area west of Buchans. Diamond drilling is planned for mid-1998.

On May 27, 1998, **Celtic Minerals Ltd.** and joint venture partner *Jilbey Exploration Ltd.* announced the results of an independent compilation study completed by VMS Consultants Inc. on their Hungry Hill base-metal project, central Newfoundland. Highlights of this study include the recognition of similarities of the mineralization to the Buchan's mines and the recommendation that the project warrants a systematic well-funded exploration program. Grades of 3.06% zinc, 20.9 g/mt silver and 0.8 g/mt gold over 10.84m have been reported.

Noveder Inc. is completing a diamond-drill program on its Cabot Property located near Coachmans Cove, north of Baie Verte. Surface sampling over about 40 m along a chloritic mineralized structure returned values from 1.13% to 6.8% copper. Recent drill results include 0.45% copper and 0.019% cobalt over 24.10 m including 0.68% copper and 0.016% cobalt over 4.35 m in hole Cab -98 -03.

On June 19, 1998, **Richmont Mines Inc.** announced that it had approved an exploration budget of \$500 000 for its Nugget Pond mine property. Exploration will include underground drilling to test gold potential in the footwall and down plunge extension of the mine. Values as high as 17.15 g/mt gold over 6.28 m have been reported in the footwall. In addition, six holes will test a gold prospect located less than 3 km from the mine site. This showing is similar to the surface setting of the Nugget Pond Deposit with respect to its geophysical responses sedimentary rock package, and crosscutting structure.

Mutapa Gold Corporation continues to drill test the Little Deer Mine property near Springdale. Assay results from the first four holes returned copper values ranging from 1.93% to 3.07% over widths ranging from 5.4 m to 13.6 m. The mineralization zone consists of bands of massive, semi-massive and stringer sulphide and chlorite alteration. Down-hole geophysical surveys are also being completed.

Major General Resources Ltd. announced an agreement with Rio Algom Exploration Inc. on its Green Bay, Newfoundland zinc-lead-copper project. This agreement encompasses about 600 claims owned or controlled by Major General. Rio Algom may earn a 50% interest in the properties by making exploration expenditures of \$2.0 million and cash payments to Major General totalling \$285 000 over a four-year period. Rio Algom intends to fly an airborne geophysical survey in early winter and evaluate existing targets. Ground surveys including diamond drilling is planned. In addition, Major General Resources Ltd. have been issued a mining lease for its Hammer Down gold deposit located in the immediate vicinity. The Hammer Down deposit contains an indicated resource of 464 000 tonnes grading 17.48 g/mt gold.

10324 Newfoundland Limited completed a gravity survey, some trenching, a limited bulk sampling, drill program and have applied for a mining lease on the Ronan barite deposit, Port au Port Peninsula. The company also holds title to claims covering barite potential on the Isthmus of Avalon; a program of prospecting and geochemical sampling is in progress.

Burin Minerals Ltd. is continuing its talks with financial institutions to arrange financing for reopening of the fluorspar mines and mill at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland. Burin Minerals Ltd. recently staked an additional 11 claims in the area and are designing a diamond-drill program (28 000 m) to further upgrade existing reserves at the Blue Beach North and Tarefare No. 2 deposits.

Liberty Mineral Exploration Inc. announced May 20, 1998 that it entered into a letter of interest with Raventures Inc. to purchase a 100% interest in 21 claims, covering the Grey River tungsten deposit at Grey River, southern Newfoundland.

Short Course on Prospecting Techniques and Mineralizing Environments in the Avalon Zone, Eastern Newfoundland

Marystown, June 5 to June 7, 1998

A two-day short course on mineralizing environments and prospecting techniques was held on the Burin Peninsula at Marystown on June 5 to 7, 1998. It was organized and conducted by Sean O'Brien and Cyril O'Driscoll of the Geological Survey, Department of Mines and Energy, and Alex Turpin of Peninsula Gold. This short course was a combined initiative of the Schooner Regional Development Corporation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Minerals at the request of the newly formed Burin Peninsula Prospectors Working Group.

The course started Friday evening at the offices of the Schooner Regional Development Corporation in Marystown. It consisted of lectures on mineralizing environments in the Avalon Zone and hands-on lab work in the recognition of mineralization and alteration assemblages of epithermal and mesothermal gold deposits and vein-hosted and VMS-style base-metal deposits.

Saturday was spent in the field visiting various mineral deposits, studying the mineralization present and demonstrating prospecting techniques. These techniques included gold panning, along with the proper methods of soil, rock chip and rock channel sampling. Several properties that have been staked by Burin Peninsula prospectors were visited and ideas were exchanged on the types and extent of the deposits, the economic minerals present and the identification of associated mineral assemblages. Discussions were held on what additional work was needed in order to further advance the merit of their properties and how to best approach this work.

On Saturday evening, activities continued at the Schooner Regional Development Corporation offices. These involved further lab study including the physical properties of minerals, mineral associations at specific deposits, map reviews and literature reviews. This was followed by a lively question-and-answer period.

On Sunday morning, June 7, a field trip was conducted north from Marystown along the Burin Peninsula highway to the Monkstown area. Various stops were made in mineralized zones. The trip focused on the mineral associations of epithermal environments and the regional setting of mineralized zones on the Burin Peninsula. The general geology and areas of high mineral potential were pointed out.

Geological Survey Field Program - 1998

The Geological Survey's field program for 1998 consists of 13 field projects – three more than the 1997 field program.

Regional Geological Mapping

(i) Labrador

- 1) Don James will conduct 1:100 000-scale bedrock geological mapping in the Grenville Province, south of Lake Melville and Goose Bay. Mineral evaluation and geochronological studies will also be carried out. This project is part of two projects operating jointly in this area; the other is led by Charlie Gower.
- 2) Charlie Gower will also be conducting 1:100 000-scale bedrock geological mapping in the Grenville Province, in conjunction with Don James. Both projects will have a combined total of seven persons in the field parties.

(ii) Newfoundland

- 1) Ian Knight will conduct a detailed bedrock geological mapping and stratigraphic study of the carbonate and siliciclastic rocks on the Port au Port Peninsula. The mapping and stratigraphic studies will be in cooperation with the Survey's paleontologist, Doug Boyce. This will be the first systematic litho- and macrobiostratigraphic study of the Cambro-Ordovician rocks of this area.
- 2) Lawson Dickson will commence 1:50 000-scale bedrock geological mapping and geochemical sampling of the Hodges Hill Intrusive Suite in central Newfoundland. The

area is one of the few remaining areas on the island to be mapped at 1:50 000-scale. The intrusive suite has potential for building stone.

- 3) Sean O'Brien (in conjunction with Cyril O'Driscoll and Benoit Dubé (GSC)) will conduct a four-week field season focused mainly on mapping lithology, structures and auriferous hydrothermal alteration in selected areas of the Burin Peninsula. The area has a high potential for gold mineralization.

Mineral Deposits

- 1) Andy Kerr will continue with his study to document and develop models for nickel and magmatic sulphide mineralization in mafic plutonic rocks in northern Labrador, including the south Voisey's Bay area.
- 2) Dave Evans will continue with his study to document and describe the style and setting of epigenetic gold and massive sulphide occurrences in the western Dunnage Zone of central Newfoundland, in particular the Baie Verte Peninsula.
- 3) Ambrose Howse will conduct studies on the talc prospects of the Baie Verte Peninsula. He will also evaluate silica occurrences in the northern Long Range Mountains.
- 4) Cyril O'Driscoll (in conjunction with Sean O'Brien and Benoit Dubé (GSC)) will be evaluating the mineral potential and alteration systems in selected areas of the Burin Peninsula.

Geochemistry and Terrain Sciences

- 1) Martin Batterson will conduct 1:50 000-scale surficial mapping in the St. John's area. The resulting maps will complement mapping carried out by the Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- 2) Jerry Ricketts will conduct granular aggregate-resource assessment on the Avalon Peninsula, including sand, gravel and sandy till deposits. This will aid the construction industry in their needs for high-quality aggregate.
- 3) Dave Liverman will conduct 1:50 000-scale surficial mapping of the St. George's Bay area. This onshore

mapping will be linked to parallel work in the offshore by the GSC. The results will be of use in mineral exploration, land-use planning and coastal zone management.

- 4) John McConnell will carry out follow-up lake-sediment/water geochemical surveys in north-central Labrador. The project is designed to assess the base-metal mineral potential of the area.

Prospectors Training Program Successful

The 8th Prospectors Training Course, which is part of the Department of Mines and Energy's Prospectors Assistance Program, has been successfully completed. The Prospectors Course provides comprehensive training in basic prospecting skills. The instruction emphasizes the practical aspects of mineral prospecting through geological principles, and combines classroom and laboratory work with prospecting field trips.

This year, 20 successful candidates were chosen from approximately 30 applications. The 15-day course took place from May 28 to June 11, 1998, at the Bay St. George Campus of the College of the North Atlantic in Stephenville. The tuition-based course is supported by the Department of Mines and Energy.

If interest continues, the training program will continue to be a joint initiative of the Department of Mines and Energy and the College of the North Atlantic. Geologists of the Department of Mines and Energy will continue as instructors in the program.

Recent Developments

Baie Verte Asbestos Property - A "Call for Proposals on Exempt Mineral Land" issued by the Department of Mines and Energy in January of 1998 for development of the Baie Verte asbestos property, resulted in two successful proponents. Northco Forest Products Limited of Baie Verte acquired the use of the Erection & Repair Building and the Machine Shop of the former asbestos mine in order to establish an integrated sawmill facility on the property. A lease agreement between Northco and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador was signed on June 19th, 1998, at the 11th Annual Baie Verte Mining Conference.

Canadian Magnesium Corporation, the other successful proponent, was awarded the mineral rights to the 800 hectares of Exempt Mineral Land. It will carry out the necessary feasibility studies to determine the potential for the extraction of magnesium from the approximately 40 million tonnes of tailings which was stockpiled on the property as a result of asbestos mining between 1963 and 1991.

Shabogamo Mining & Exploration secured a contract on June 30, 1998, worth an estimated \$50 million over 10 years to supply a silicon metal plant in Quebec with high-quality quartzite from its deposit near Labrador City at the rate of 100,000 tonnes per annum. The contract is effective immediately, subject to environmental approval, and will result in a full-time work force of approximately 60 persons.

On February 2, 1998, the last of the **Iron Ore Company of Canada's** concentrator dry mills came to a permanent shutdown. The shutdown ceremony marked the end of a multi-phase conversion program of IOC's grinding capability from dry to wet mills.

Completion of the conversion from a dry to a wet milling operation means that there will be no stack emissions associated with the primary grinding process. That has benefits for the external environment and the community. It also means dust generation within the plant itself, in confined buildings, has been reduced.

The old process needed a considerable amount of energy to dry the ore for the grinding process. By moving to wet milling, IOCC has reduced its Bunker "C" usage resulting in a reduction in greenhouse emissions. This project had a cost in excess of \$22 million.

IOC's shareholders recognized the strategic importance of producing a low silica product and in December, 1996 approved an investment of C\$23 million for the construction of a flotation plant at Labrador City. This will enable IOC to produce pellets at significantly lower silica levels.

When the flotation plant is commissioned later this year, IOC will be able to tailor its products for different blast furnace burdens with the development of low silica pellet grades, thereby increasing the value-in-use contribution from its products. The flotation plant also will give IOC the capability to manufacture products suitable for direct reduced iron applications.

Voisey's Bay and Beyond Conference Well Attended

The organizers for the Voisey's Bay and Beyond Conference and Trade Exhibition expanded the focus for the conference for 1998. This year the technical sessions covered most resource areas (mining, forestry and hydro) and the transportation sector; each of the sectors covered has either a major development underway or planned in the future. The resource development projects are linked to the development of transportation infrastructure in the region and the conference offered a very useful exchange of information and update on the status of developments in the various sectors.

This year's meeting was well attended with 150 delegates, special guests and VIPs registered; this was a significant increase over the 115 people in attendance at the meeting last year. The Trade Show was sold out with a full 85 exhibitors at the two-day show.

New Mining Projects

The Coal Brook gypsum project has cleared environmental assessment, and Galen Gypsum Mines Limited has started to construct a road to the deposit. Midatlantic Minerals proposed limestone/dolomite quarry at Aguathuna has also cleared the provincial environmental assessment. The Department of Environment has approved the reactivation of the Buchans barite plant, and United Bolero is proceeding to construct a tailings pond.

Pennecon Limited plans to mine the Boswarlos deposit of barite/celestite, located on Hooper's Brook on the Port au Port Peninsula. The material would be used to produce drilling mud for the oil industry. The project is registered under the Environmental Assessment Act, and a decision is due on July 15, 1998.

The Bell Island Community Museum

The Bell Island Community Museum officially opened its doors on July 31, 1995. This celebrates the rich history of the community so that future generations may come to realize the tremendous contribution our

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ancestors have made to the formation of Bell Island and indeed the province.

The development of the underground #2 Mine Site with the assistance of HRD and ACOA began in late Fall of 1996 and it is now the only underground mine tour facility in Newfoundland. The workers, who are all sons of former miners and who, without a doubt, have a sense of commitment to the project, have turned #2 Mine into a first-class tour facility. This was by no means an easy task when one considers that this mine ceased operating in 1949. While under construction, the site has already seen approximately 1500 interested visitors. However, it is expected to attract many more tourists when it officially starts operating in mid-July, 1998.

In the summer of 1997 and 1998, the Museum sponsored a theatrical company called First Light Productions. The theatrical tour takes the audience through the same gamut of emotions felt by many people and the ordeals the community endured. This production will have some of its performance taking place in the underground #2 Mine Tour facility and promises to be quite an experience.

Upcoming Events

Opportunities '98 Supplier Development Forum, Labrador West

October 5-8, 1998

Labrador City, Wabush

The consumers of your goods and services invite you to visit their exhibits, interest with industrial leaders, clarify procurement procedures and consumer objectives. You will also take in tours of iron ore producers and the Churchill Falls hydro project.

Newfoundland and Labrador Geoscience Needs Workshop

November 2 and 3, 1998

St. John's, Newfoundland

The Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador (GSNL), in conjunction with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), is hosting a geoscience needs study to define the types of geoscience information the province will require in the future. Representatives from the mineral industry and other client groups are being asked to gather for a two-day **Geoscience Needs Workshop**.

The intention is to canvass as broad a spectrum of our clientele as possible, in order to adequately establish the immediate and mid- to long-term geoscience needs of industry, government and the public. Through focus groups and plenary sessions, participants will discuss client needs and priorities from a variety of perspectives: themes, geographic areas, new initiatives, and

jurisdictional responsibilities, amongst others. This will be the basis for the development of a five-year strategic plan for the GSNL, and will help guide GSC activities in the province over the same period.

Those unable to attend will be encouraged to respond to a questionnaire addressing any or all of the various topics and focus-group questions slated for discussion at the workshop. An agenda containing workshop specifics will be circulated several weeks prior to the meeting. All submissions, oral and written, will be incorporated as input into the assessment process.

The Geological Society of America 110th Annual Meeting and Exposition

October 24-28, 1998

Toronto, Ontario

This is the show of geoscience professionals, attracting over 6000 geology professionals whose interest is dedicated to the earth, education, and environment. You will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with influential and key decision-makers. Take advantage of this high traffic exposure to develop new customers, increase sales, and educate current customers regarding your organization's benefits.

Mines Branch 22nd Annual Review of Activities

November 5, 1998

St. John's, Newfoundland

Annual Review of the Mines Branch activities and Open House will be held in conjunction with the CIM Conference. For more information, please contact:

Norm Mercer

Tel: (709) 729-6193

Fax: (709) 729-4491

CIM Annual Meeting and Conference

November 5-7, 1998

St. John's, Newfoundland

The Newfoundland Branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and the Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy hosts the 45th Annual Conference. This year's Conference will focus on Junior Mining and Exploration in Newfoundland and Labrador. For more information please contact:

Colin McKenzie

Tel: (709) 758-8882

Fax: (709) 758-8886

RICH MINERAL RESOURCES

and A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES...

- ✓ Produces over a dozen mineral commodities
- ✓ Produces 55% of Canada's iron ore
- ✓ Access to tide-water and deep-water ports
- ✓ Comprehensive geoscientific database
- ✓ Skilled workforce and well-developed infrastructure and service industry
- ✓ Developing dimension stone industry
- ✓ Active geological survey group
- ✓ Newfoundland and Labrador boasts geological diversity and potential for further world-class discoveries



Charles J. Furey

CHARLES J. FUREY
Minister



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

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