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BC Mining News Summer 2006

THE MINING ASSOCIATION
OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

The BC Mining News

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MINE MANAGERS MAKE A SPLASH AT SPRING MEETING



The bi-annual Mine Managers meeting brought together key managers from across the province to update each other on news from their respective mine sites and to discuss important issues relating to their mining operations.

It is a valuable opportunity for colleagues in the industry to benefit from the knowledge and experience of each other, and it is also an opportunity for some fun! The spring meeting, which took place in Victoria, was no exception. One of the social highlights was the whale watching tour, where guests saw a pod of 44 killer whales.

The fall meeting is being planned for October 2006 and will be the first official gathering to be chaired by Mr. Paul Krivokuca, Mine Manager of Hillsborough Resources, Quinsam Mine in Campbell River.

HUCKLEBERRY MINES LTD. ANNOUNCE MINE LIFE EXTENSION

The Board of Directors of Huckleberry Mines Ltd. recently approved management's recommendation to proceed with the extension of the main zone pit of the Huckleberry Mine in central northwestern BC subject to government approvals. These approvals are expected to be in place prior to September of this year.

Management are continuing to work on the details and refinements of the main zone extension to complete the long-term plan which is due in October. The added tonnage of this extension is approximately 16 million tonnes grading 0.37% copper. This extra tonnage will add about 2.5 years to the operation which extends the production into year 2010.

Higher copper prices are a major factor in making this lower grade pit expansion economically feasible. Management continue to be optimistic that through detailed exploration other potential sources of mill feed will be found in the area. The exploration program will continue in the immediate area with the hope of finding additional reserves.

More information on the project and Huckleberry Mines Ltd. can be found at <http://www.imperialmetals.com/s/Huckleberry.asp>

MINING FOR MIRACLE CAMPAIGN SETS NEW RECORD

Since 1998, BC's mining and minerals industry has raised more than \$8 million for BC Children's Hospital.

In the 2006 Mining for Miracles campaign, our industry raised \$1,438,352 through activities such as Jean's Day, the Miracle Weekend Telethon and the popular Teck Cominco celebrity pie throw, beating last year's total by more than \$200,000. Congratulations to all the volunteers helping out this year and a special acknowledgment to Graeme Currie of Cannacord Capital who chaired this year's campaign.

The Mining for Miracles cheque was presented during the telethon broadcast on Global TV on June 4th.

The dollars raised by our industry will help fund the re-development of two operating theatres into SMART Operating Rooms at BC Children's Hospital.

SMART Operating Rooms will enable surgical staff to treat children using minimally invasive techniques. This means less waiting, less recovery, less fear and less trauma.

Without philanthropic support, the BC Children's Hospital will not be able to build these SMART operating rooms. Thank you to all for your contributions they confirm the generosity for which our industry is known.

Though the Mining for Miracles campaign has ended for 2006, you can still make a donation to the cause. If you would like to donate, please visit www.miningformiracles.ca

HONOURABLE RICHARD NEUFELD ATTENDS 44TH ANNUAL MINE SAFETY COMPETITION



Honourable Richard Neufeld and Deputy Minister Greg Reimer attended the 44th Annual Mine Safety Competition and the Mine Safety Awards Banquet hosted by Chief Inspector of Mines, Fred Hermann, in Campbell River on June 10th.

Presented by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, this important event recognizes our industry's commitment to safety and we congratulate all those who received awards .

Members from the NVI Mining, Myra Falls Operations mine rescue team (left) respond to a simulation of an underground mine explosion, while Judges (right) evaluate and grade their performance.

ROUNDTABLES MAKING PROGRESS ON PERMITTING ISSUES



The inaugural BC Mining Roundtable took place on January 20, 2006 and second one was held on June 22 and 23rd bringing together stakeholders from government, industry, First Nations and the non-governmental sector (NGO's) to discuss concerns about the environmental assessment process in BC.

The main purpose of initiating the roundtable discussions was to create a more effective and efficient permitting process. Several key areas were focussed on including the need for better process guidelines, challenges with the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and strategies for more effective engagement with BC's First Nations communities.

The next step in this process will be to work with government to implement the recommendations coming from these meetings and to continue to engage with other participants in areas where there is common interest.

To view the report from both roundtable sessions, please visit www.mining.bc.ca.

MABC PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE

Pedal to the metal?

In his annual address to the Vancouver Board of Trade during Mining Week 2006, MABC's President and CEO, Michael McPhie, compared the mining industry to a fully-loaded high performance vehicle.

Demand for our products from China and India is like fuel in the tank and the growing middle class in each of these countries is driving demand for electronics, appliances, computers, cars, and all kinds of other products that are made from the materials we mine here in BC.

This is great news for us, but we know that right now we are not in a position to meet this demand over the long term. We are running on existing mines that are going full tilt and very few new mines have been built in the last 10 years.

Delays in the permitting process are among our biggest concerns. The BC Mining Roundtables have been established to address some of the issues that are preventing mining projects from getting off the ground in BC, and we are working on some broad, practical recommendations for change so proponents will know much sooner if their project is acceptable or not.

We have 25 mining projects waiting in the wings in BC, representing billions of dollars in investment and thousands of new jobs. But these projects cannot wait forever. To build on the success we had in 2005, we need to know if they can go ahead.

Then we can put the pedal to the metal for the benefit of all British Columbians.

A full copy of the Board of Trade speech can be found at the MABC web site at www.mining.bc.ca

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