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Firm drills at old mine site

Results of gold search won't be known until the end of the year

By Ron Grech
The Daily Press

Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mines will begin exploratory drilling on a site that was one of the foundations of Timmins' mining industry.

Dave Bucar, project manager, said beginning either this week or the following week, the firm will conduct test drilling in the Pearl Lake area of the McIntyre Mine site.

"This is a follow up to

exploratory drilling that took place in 2003," said Bucar. At that time, some "underground mining potential" was identified.

A barge drill was used to conduct tests that summer.

"It's a little easier to do it on the ice in the middle of winter where we can use a regular drill."

Before they bring a 12-and-a-half tonne drill on the ice they're making sure there's at least a surface thickness of 36

inches to support the weight. They'll work on thickening the ice by simply pumping water from the lake bottom to the surface water and letting it freeze.

While drilling is often little more than an expensive geologically-researched crap shoot, Bucar feels there is reason to feel the prospects for success may be a little higher on this project.

"When it comes to drilling, there's a pretty small chance of success," he said. "But we feel there is a good opportunity here because, for one thing, it's not a new concept. We've looked at this area in the past, it's been explored

and feel there is a higher chance of success.

"We also know there was a big mine, one of the biggest mines historically in Timmins, right in this area so we're very optimistic."

The original McIntyre Mine operated in Timmins for about 70 years.

Bucar said the drilling site is "fairly separate from the existing mine workings."

So if they do discover a new ore body in that area, "there isn't a lot of existing infrastructure on site, existing shafts or headframe that would be of any use."

If a mining project develops from the exploration, process-

ing would be done at the facility located at the old Dome site.

"We're looking at a couple of months of drilling then it's numerous months to get results from the drilling, to model it, understand where the ore body is and determine if it's economical.

"We may not have any true information until the end of the year."

The McIntyre Mine operated until the early 1980s.

Bucar said rising gold prices had nothing to do with the timing of this exploration project.

"It's a new budget year and we always had it planned that

we would conduct this drilling in the third week of January," he said.

"This project has been on the shelf for awhile. Gold prices being at \$880 is not what's driving this project. It's been in our plans for a number of years. It just happened to be in a series of projects, it's been some time since we had new information on it. It was really the next priority for us.

"I don't think they had enough information and maybe it wasn't much of a priority at the time. Ultimately, it was driven by cost and not enough money or information to put into exploration at the time."



Brandon Walker, The Daily Press

O'Gorman High School student Joshua Tremblay dressed as Morrie from the novel "Tuesdays with Morrie," even bringing a couch from another area in the school. Tremblay said the novel inspired him.

O'Gorman High students breathe new life into novels

By Brandon Walker
The Daily Press

Students at O'Gorman High School threw themselves into character for an independent study unit. Students selected a novel and made a presentation about it to other students.

Grade 12 student Kristina Bouchard chose Margaret Atwood's book "A Handmaid's Tale," a work she found very interesting.

Students had to choose a

novel and make a case for why they chose it.

"A Handmaid's Tale" is set in the '80s as if the U.S. government had been taken over. It goes back to the days of hangings. It seems plausible and it was very intriguing."

Bouchard wore a colourful outfit and posed as a pregnant woman, both symbolic of how women are represented in the book.

"In this novel, the sole purpose of females is to have children," Bouchard said.

She said the book is full of symbolism, particularly using colour and it promotes critical thinking.

Joshua Tremblay chose "Tuesdays with Morrie," by Mitch Albom, as a way of learning how to not be upset about his grandmother's illness.

"She has lung cancer and my mom recommended I read it," Tremblay said.

He learned not to cry in front of her and to devote himself to his career.

"I found it very inspiring. The situation with Morrie and Mitch is quite similar to my grandmother and I," he explained.

"He visits Morrie (his former teacher) every Tuesday and brings him groceries and they spend quality time together."

Tremblay visits his grandmother on a regular basis and plays cards with her.

"I try to spend as much time with her as possible," he said.

Hawk flying ahead with exploration for minerals

By Brandon Walker
The Daily Press

Four years ago, Hawk Uranium developed a joint-venture agreement with two other companies for property on McFaulds Lake, near the James Bay lowlands, in search of nickel, copper and other valuable metals, as well as diamonds.

The company hasn't looked back since.

Hawk formed the agreement with Noront Resources and MacDonald Mines — two of the largest landholders in the area.

"Joint-venture partnerships often spurn the risk," said Vance White, president and chief executive officer for Hawk.

"Remember, in areas such as McFaulds there is very little in the way of infrastructure. This way resources are shared as well."

Although the projects in the North are still in their early stages, White called it a very exciting district.

"Part of the problem has been the lack of infrastructure. You have to get there using fixed-wing or helicopter and as a result the area is underexplored.

"I think the whole McFaulds area will turn into a mining camp. The grades out of Noront have been very rich, now the only question is tonnage."

He has high hopes for the company's future, especially this year.

"This is going to be a very busy year. We have high expectations for the McFaulds

camp as well as Elliot Lake (for uranium), with airborne projects as well as grounds surveys."

The company expects to receive results back in the second quarter for its Charlebois Lake camp in Northern Saskatchewan and hopes to begin drilling in the summer.

The firm recently announced it has contracted Geotech Ltd., out of Aurora, to conduct roughly 1,500 kilometres of helicopter flight using a Time Domain Electromagnetic Geophysical Survey to portray potential drill hole targets.

There are also hopes of advancing its uranium-related projects in Grand Calumet, Que.

"We've taken on projects of merit; areas known for showing with known resources, in other words, projects worth following up on," he said.

In November of 2007, Hawk and MacDonald began drilling for diamonds on its shared property, known as McNugget.

White said he hasn't received a report back with the findings, but he checks daily and expects them soon.

Similar to any company starting out, when Hawk first began growing a few years ago it had problems attracting interest from investors.

"That's why we recently became listed on the Venture Exchange, as a way of getting interest from people who are now more inclined to invest in us," White said.

"We're definitely hoping for a busy and successful year."

Committee examines safety concerns

By Ron Grech
The Daily Press

The Timmins police chief wants to quickly address safety concerns for pedestrians along Airport Road near Thériault Boulevard.

Chief Richard Laperriere announced at the Timmins Police Services Board meeting Thursday that he, along with representatives from the city's engineering department and the schools in that area, will form a committee to develop solutions to the problem.

The concerns were initially raised at city council Monday, where the majority of councillors supported the idea of installing a sidewalk along one side of Airport Road. It will be part of a project approved in 2007 to resurface the road between Lafleur Drive and Thériault Boulevard.

"We've had complaints about aggressive drivers and we've also had complaints in regards to how the kids cross the roadway there," said Laperriere. "The challenge we face there is that we have two

high schools and a great number of kids. We also have the Sportsplex and College Boreal is going to be housed on Thériault Boulevard so traffic is going to increase and it's time to address some of the concerns that have been raised.

"In order to do that it's important that we form a committee involving police, city, school boards to try to address some of the concerns.

"Hopefully we can come up with a plan to make that area safe not only for the kids

going to school there but also for those people using those roadways to get home from work."

Darlene Lafontaine, vice-chairwoman of the police services board, suggested there should also be student representatives on that committee.

Within the next few months, Luc Duval, the city's director of engineering, is expected to present city council with the cost of including the construction of a sidewalk as part of the Airport Road resurfacing project.

Police chief reviews protocol for sex offenders

By Ron Grech
The Daily Press

The Timmins police chief was asked to explain to the police board the protocol for identifying high-risk sex offenders living in the community.

Chief Richard Laperriere said community notification is something he would do in consultation with the Crown attorney's office in Timmins.

It's a rare practice by police when a person with a history of sex offences moves into a neighbourhood. It usually applies to someone who has served time in jail or in treatment, is no longer in custody and is considered by police to have a high-risk potential for re-offending.

The Police Services Act empowers local police chiefs to publicly disclose information about offenders consid-

ered to be a significant risk to the community.

Coun. Mike Doody, who is one of city council's appointees on the Timmins Police Services Board, asked about the protocol for community notifications.

The question came up during the police chief's report on recent changes made to the service's operational procedures. Laperriere said changes have been made to written

operational policy as police are now in a new building.

"These were minor modifications," Laperriere explained. "An example is our firearms policy. The way we secure our firearms in this new building is in a different location so it meant a change in our operating procedures."

He said a similar change reflecting the services relocation was made to a Sex Offender Registry.



Submitted Photo

A Hawk Uranium employee uses an electronic device, known as a scintillometer, to measure radioactivity in the rock during a search for uranium.