



NORTHERN NEIGHBORS

Compiled by Shane Lasley



SKEENA RESOURCES LTD.

The 61 holes Skeena Resources Ltd. drilled this year along with roughly 100 holes previously drilled at Spectrum will be used to calculate an NI 43-101 resource for the high-grade gold property in the Golden Triangle region of northwestern British Columbia.

Skeena Resources reports final assay results from Spectrum gold project

Skeena Resources Ltd. Nov. 19 reported assay results for the final 18 holes (6,576 meters) of the 2015 program at its Spectrum gold project in northwestern British Columbia. Highlights from drilling at the Central Zone include: 18 meters of 6.13 grams per metric ton gold from a depth of 252 meters in hole S15-60; two meters of 8.27 g/t gold from a depth of 204.6 meters, and one meter of 23.1 g/t gold from a depth of 286.5 meters in hole S15-055; 18 meters of 2.69 g/t gold from a depth of 264 meters in hole S15-061; and two meters of 4.6 g/t gold from a depth of 336 meters, 2.6 meters of 10.18 g/t gold from a depth of 393.4 meters, and 0.9 meter of 8.04 g/t gold from a depth of 411.1 meters of hole S15-070. The Boundary zone, located 200 meters east of the Central zone, is outlined by very strong gold-in-soil values and strong bedrock grab and chip samples. Hole S15-065 cut two meters of 3.62 g/t gold from a depth of 28 meters, and 1.14 meters of 10.5 g/t gold from a depth of 126.86 meters. Only three holes have been drilled at Boundary. Two holes tested the 300 Colour zone, which is located 400 meters northwest and parallel to the Central zone. Hole S15-066 cut two meters of 4.64 g/t gold from a depth of 32 meters; and hole S15-068 cut 48 meters of 1.05 g/t gold from a depth of 50 meters. A total of 17,350 meters of drilling was completed in 61 holes at Spectrum during 2015. In addition, 2,992 soil and 387 prospecting rock samples were collected. The data derived from this work will inform a resource calculation and assist in picking drill targets for 2016.

End may be near for NA Tungsten mine

North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. Nov. 19 reported that the Supreme Court of British Columbia has extended a stay of company's creditors' arrangement act proceedings until March 31, 2016. The court also expanded the powers of Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc., the monitor appointed by the court to oversee and assist the company during the bankruptcy hearings. Due to liquidity issues, North American Tungsten filed for court protection in June and later sought court approval to market and sell its assets. The company also sought approval of an operating plan that involved transitioning the Cantung mine in eastern Yukon Territory to care and maintenance if no purchaser was found. Due to the lack of interested buyers, the mill was shut down on Oct. 26 and the mine has transitioned to care and maintenance. The Government of Canada will fund the environmental care and maintenance activities at Cantung mine, which will take place under the supervision of the monitor. The B.C. Supreme Court also authorized certain equipment financiers to take possession of equipment not required for care and maintenance operations; and approved the sale of North

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COLUMN

Mining may be down

But Alaska remains one of the best places on earth to seek mineral deposits

By CURT FREEMAN

For Mining News

Earlier this month, the Alaska Miners Association held its annual convention in Anchorage amid plummeting metals prices and an over-all atmosphere of economic uncertainty now stretching into its fourth year. Individuals from around North America and beyond were present and conversations outside of the technical sessions seemed to gravitate toward how best to climb out of the doldrums that seem to grip the mining industry on a global scale. One individual was heard to say that he would hold hands and sing "Kum Ba Yah," if he thought it would help but he was quickly informed: "That effort had already been tried, to no avail."

At the same time, Alaska has seen 14 mineral properties change hands during the past year, with other transactions likely to add to this total before the end of the year or possibly early in 2016. These deals, cut at the bottom of the cycle, will only look better when commodities prices improve. But therein lies the real crux of the matter: When will things show real improvement? If a recent publication by SNL Metals & Mining is any gauge, not for some time. The publication, authored by Mark Fellows and entitled "How Does the Mining Sector Cycle Play Out?" compared the late 1990s mining industry crash to the current crash using metals price and capital expenditure indices. From 1997 to 2002, mining industry capital expenditures fell 42 percent. Capital expenditures for mine expansions continued to decline until the end of 2002, not recovering to 1997 levels until 2004, a full seven years out. When Mr. Fellows compared the 1997-2004 crash to our current crash, which started down in earnest in 2012, he found that for the current crash, annual total sustaining and expansion capital expenditures will have declined by 30 percent by the end of 2015. Perhaps more bothersome, metal prices have fallen 12 percent more than they did during the 1997-2004 cycle and that down trend does not look like it has any intention of stopping in the near term. Mr. Fellows speculated that the over-all market crash may have two more years to run its course before we see the slow rise in markets that usually signals an end to the bearishness. So where does that leave Alaska now that we know "Kum Ba Yah" is off the table? Well, let's take stock: Alaska is undisputed elephant country for a wide array of mineral deposit types and commodities. Alaska is embarrassingly under-explored so you are more likely to find an unattended elephant. Alaska has a stable, pro-development government that manages about 100 million acres of land open to mineral entry. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was signed into law over 40 years ago, allowing indigenous land owners and the mineral industry to develop an enviable working relationship. Compared to most places, Alaska is in deep clover. But we need to beat that drum loud and long, that we are one of the last, best places on earth to explore and mine.

The author

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CURT FREEMAN

Interior Alaska

KINROSS GOLD CORP. posted record third-quarter 2015 production results from its Fort Knox mine near Fairbanks. For the quarter the mine produced 115,258 ounces of gold versus 104,815 oz. produced in the 3rd quarter of 2014. Cash costs were \$556 per ounce versus \$803 per oz. in the previous third quarter. Production increased compared with the same period last year primarily due to higher mill grades, and was fairly consistent with the previous quarter. Cost of sales per ounce decreased by \$247 per gold-equivalent ounce, or 31 percent, compared with the same period a year ago, and reached its lowest level in two years, mainly as a result of lower power costs and higher production.

NORTHERN EMPIRE RESOURCES CORP. reported results from exploration conducted at the Democrat Zone of its Richardson project in the Richardson District. The program included review of all available historic data, prospecting, and the collection of 256 soil samples and 25 rock samples. Exploration focused on soil sample lines north of the Democrat Pit, portions of the adjacent intrusive body known as the Wide Zone, and at Tenderfoot Creek. Significant results include rock grab samples from outcrop in the Democrat Pit zone that returned 71.2 grams per metric ton gold and 48.6 g/t silver; 4.6 g/t gold and 111 g/t silver; 2.0 g/t gold and 233 g/t silver, 5.88 g/t gold and 6.09 g/t silver and 1.78 g/t gold and 67.3 g/t silver. Soil samples collected on two east-west soil lines to the north, 800 meters and 400 meters respectively, of Democrat Pit both returned anomalous gold-in-soils values. Soils collected here are also statistically high in silver. Soils collected along two east-west reconnaissance lines in the Wide Zone returned anomalous gold and copper values. Soils samples from 400 meters to the north of the brecciated quartz feldspar porphyry in the Democrat Pit highlighted the potential for a gold-bearing structural corridor extending at least 800 meters to the north from the northern margin of the Democrat Pit, where a 70,000-short-ton bulk sampling program in 1988 recovered 2,000 oz. of gold. Rock grab samples from an outcropping brecciated quartz feldspar porphyry from within the exposed Democrat Pit zone returned 71.2 g/t gold and 48.6 g/t silver and 2.0 g/t gold

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