

**OUR MISSION:**

- to educate the general public as to the importance of mining and to promote innovative mining methods.  
 - to promote awareness of problems, alternatives and solutions among the Placer and Hard Rock Miners of the Cariboo.

**Cariboo Mining Association** Box 4184, Quesnel, BC, V2J 3J3

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**NOTICES**

**Our next Regular meeting** will be on: **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2015** at 2:00pm at the Seniors Center in Quesnel, side door.

**CMA Christmas Potluck: Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** see page 4 for more information

**Important Notice regarding Road Conditions** see Page 6 for more information.

**For Sale** new items: claims, leases & equipment page 13

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 "Miners and Prospectors in the Cariboo Mining Division working together for the future of the Mining Industry"

Associate editors/committee:  
 Richard Wittner, Chris Winther & Jackie Sarginson  
 Editing, Layout & Publishing by Edith Ellingson

**Commodities**

(from TMX Money)

Closing prices as of Oct 30/15

Gold.....	\$ 1141.70
Silver.....	\$ 15.54
Platinum.....	\$ 986.50
Copper.....	\$ 2.316
Crude Oil.....	\$ 46.39
Cdn. Dollar....	\$ .7648



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Richard Wittner**

At our last regular meeting we had a special guest speaker Mr. David Weir, Water Stewardship Section Head, from the Williams Lake FLNRO office. He processes all water license applications as well as short term water permits. He presented a slide presentation on the Water Sustainability Act. While the act was passed in the spring of 2014, the regulations are still being developed. He gave us his interpretation of how the regulations will affect the placer industry. It is his belief that anytime a hole is dug and there is water in the hole that this will affect the aquifer so a water license or short term use permit will be required. The rates for the application will now be \$1000 and the rental rate has now also doubled to 85 cents per cubic meter of water. In the past year his office has been extremely busy dealing with the Mount Polley breach and other issues so there were only 15 water licenses approved. He didn't elaborate as to how many applications were applied for. He assured us that staffing levels in his department will be increased in 2016 and that they will be able to handle a much bigger volume. With seventy plus NOW applications being filed so far this year and more to come, I don't see how his department can even come close to the 140 day target they try to achieve! He seemed to have an issue with the fact that the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) can issue the right to use an inch and half pump to fill our settling ponds. He stated that when MEM increased our right to process 20,000 cubic meters from 2,000 cubic meters that FLNFO was not involved and inch and a half pump would not fill our settling ponds! I attempted to explain to him that it didn't matter how many cubic meters we processed that we used settling ponds and even if the ponds were a little bigger that it would be enough and that we recycled our water, he didn't believe it. I felt he inferred that I was lying! He stated that there was no way that an increase of 10 fold of volume of cubic meters of processing material, that the same water requirements could sustain our recycled settling ponds. I will be contacting his superiors and an education process is in order has to how the placer industry manages water. One of our members has been waiting for 18 months for their water permit to use water from a stream that has been certified by a FLNRO Biologist that is non fish bearing and has had a similar permit for several years prior. He was able to face Mr. Weir directly and finally after not having the ability to test their ground, now can do the work needed to keep their claim.

We appreciated Mr. Weir coming to our meeting and sharing his views and to personally face some of our members that have issues with his department.

*Continued on page 3*



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 2*

I have been warned by senior level bureaucrats that the WSA was as big a problem as the fees schedule for our NOW. It appears it is! We need to band together and fight for our rights once again. I will be calling on the BC Placer Miners Association members to work with us on this battle. We are working on our plan of attack and will be calling on you to write letters, send emails, make phone calls, and lobby your local MLA and the Minister of Environment, the Honourable Mary Polak. As soon as we have our letters together, I plan on meeting directly with Minister Polak to push for our rights!

I believe that the water licenses for the oil & gas industry are currently handled by the BC Oil and Gas Commission, so why can't the Ministry of Energy and Mines handle our needs?

**I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!**

# Merry Christmas



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*The  
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sends it's warmest wishes to each  
and everyone for a  
Joyful Holiday and may  
the New Year bring you  
good Health, Prosperity  
and many Happy Times  
for you and yours.*





# Association News



Submitted by Jackie Sarginson

The snow has arrived here in the Cariboo not much but a little bit. I sure hope all of you had a very golden season mining.

Our next regular meeting is Sunday November 8th at 2:00pm at the Seniors Center here in Quesnel. Our December meeting will be on Sunday December 13th at 2:00pm at the Seniors Center here in Quesnel it will be a short meeting with a Christmas Potluck goodie party to follow so bring your favourite goodies to share and your Mining Tales of 2015.

Don Kirkham, Rick Wittner and myself attended the BC Placer Miners Association Annual General Meeting in Kamloops on October 24th. In attendance were Donna & Bruce Chaytor from Vancouver Island Association, Jason Jacobs from East Kootney's Chamber of Mines, Cal Olsson and Rick Peterson from the Vernon group.

We discussed what happened in each of our associations over the past year. East Kootneys had a fairly quiet year, Vernon had another very successful Panning Championship in Enderby, Vancouver Island had a year where they were not able to mine because of the Forest Fire situation on the Island, but they are able to get out now and do some mining. Well, all of you know what we have been up to at the CMA.

*continued on page 5*



**BackRow:** Rick Peterson, Cal Olsson, Rick, Wittner, Mark Messmer, Deputy Gold Commissioner, Bruce Hupman MEM, Don Kirkham **Front Row:** Bruce & Donna Chaytor , Jason Jakobs missing is Jackie Sarginson



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Bruce & Donna Chaytor, Jason Jakobs

# Association News Continued from page 4



Bruce Hupman & Mark Messmer Director and Deputy Gold Commissioner

Bruce Hupman from MEM and Mark Messmer Director and Deputy Gold Commissioner were in attendance in the afternoon to hear the trials and tribulations of us BC placer miners. Things that were discussed were the Water Sustainability Act. Rick has a whole section devoted to this in the Presidents report.

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Natural Resources Road Act is still proceeding and will be kept up to date by Bruce Chaytor in his Reports as President of the BCPMA, to all of the Associations.

It was a very productive meeting and the lines of Communication have been opened with the Deputy Gold Commissioner.

Bruce Hupman announced his retirement as of Friday October 30th, 2015 and we want to Thank Bruce for all you have done for us Placer Miners over the years and wish you the best of luck for a very happy retirement.

Well that's it for this issue see all of you November 8th for our next regular meeting.

**Wishing each and every one of you a Safe and Very Merry Christmas.**

**CO-OP** **MIKE KAMPMAN**  
North Cariboo Branch Manager

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# Cariboo Road Report

Submitted by James Moe FLNR:EX

- Cariboo River FSR (8400 Road) is currently closed at km 0.7 to facilitate replacement of the Cariboo River bridge until November 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 (see Photo DSC0145 taken October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015)
- Horsefly- Likely FSR (Ditch Road) will be closed for a two week period beginning October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 to November 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 to facilitate the replacement of the lower Hazeltine Creek lost to the Mt Polley tailings dam breach of August 4<sup>th</sup> 2014
- Horsefly - Gavin FSR (Gavin Road) Upper Hazeltine Creek is currently behind locked gates and closed to the public since the Mt Polley tailings dam breach of August 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, the bridge is scheduled for replacement construction in November of this year and will be assessed upon completion of the bridge installation for a re-opening of the Forest Service Road.
- Morehead-Bootjack-Gavin FSR is closed indefinitely (to all but ATV vehicles) by concrete pyramid blocks, no industrial use of this bridge will be authorized until the timber components of this structure are replaced.
- Horsefly-Whiskey Bridges FSR will be closed and barricaded for an indefinite period of time with concrete pyramid blocks, no industrial use will be authorized until the timber components of all three bridges are replaced.



**For further information on these or other closures, please contact the District Manager of the Cariboo- Chilcotin Forest District at 250-398-4345 or e-mail the District Engineering Officer at: [james.moe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:james.moe@gov.bc.ca)**

**Editor's comment:** *we are hoping that James will be able to keep us updated on road conditions on a regular basis.*

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# Stories from the VAULTS of TECHNIC INC

*Submitted by Keith Law, TECHNIC CANADA*

*I thought as a shift from the scam stories, I would write about the beginning days of the precious metals refining business in B.C., and my personal experience.....*

## **WHEN THINGS GO WRONG**

In a blink of bright orange flame and an ear ringing explosion, the white, five gallon plastic bucket ceased to exist in its present form.

Lets step back a minute here, it's the early 70's, in a brand new industry on the West Coast. There were two of us to start, as the original employees, in our early 20's. Then, after a few years, we hired some graduating chemistry students from B.C.I.T. Now imagine you have access to all sorts of wonderful chemicals and gasses that can go BOOM! What 20 year old would not think that was a dream come true?

Over those early years I had to experiment with different cover gases during the pouring process for bullion bars. I was in charge of all the bullion production at that time and as the markets started rise, so did sales of investment products, mainly silver. This was the start of the silver rush culminating in the HUNT BROTHERS ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver\\_Thursday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Thursday)) getting caught in their speculation and the market grenading into oblivion.

I had come up with a mix of argon and hydrogen gas, to be played over the surface of the cooling bar, giving it a nice, finished looking surface. Now, hydrogen burns with a bright orange flame and in a confined space, under the right conditions, it will explode. Our young 20 year old minds thought it would be cool to see how HIGH we could launch a 5 gallon plastic bucket if we filled it with hydrogen. Our first refinery was in an undeveloped area of Richmond, where we had no neighbours to annoy, although over time we got on a first name basis with some of the Richmond Fire Department personnel....more on that later.

So imagine 3 of us standing outside, with a 5 gallon white plastic bucket turned upside down and a line running from our hydrogen bottle, with a tap on the end. We gave it a shot of hydrogen, and of course hydrogen being lighter than air, it would have gone to the top of the bucket. Harry, who was a smoker, had a lit cigarette hooked at the end of a straightened out coat hanger. He gently pushed it under the lip of the bucket and in a second or two there was a small WHUMP and the bucket maybe went 2 feet in the air. COOL! Ok, so we need more hydrogen, operating under the principle: if some is good...more is better! Another good shot of hydrogen, repeat procedure, WHUMP, bucket goes maybe 4 feet in the air. Right, so we now think we need to really fill this thing up. Our objective is to try to get the bucket to fly as high as our vault, some 15 feet high. I turn the tap on, letting the gas run for 15 seconds or so. I step back...good thing, as Harry stretches his arm out, with the lit cigarette, trying to be as far away as possible.

*Continued on page 8*



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## WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

*Continued from page 7*

Just as the glowing end of the cigarette got close to the edge of the bucket..KABOOM...think the Hindenberg here, a monstrous orange flame, an ear ringing explosion, the white plastic bucket did not go up so much as it just seemed to disappear into a million white shards of plastic shrapnel, blowing the 3 of us off our feet, and singeing all the hair on Harry's face. That was the last time we tried that little experiment. As we had a complete lab, I think we had most of the chemicals required to make some very dangerous things. At the time, we were developing a copper recovery system, doing mercury refining and slowly trying to figure out how to get the silver out of silver oxide batteries.

In line with that one day it came upon us that we could make a pressure sensitive explosive in small quantities. It required a certain chemical to be filtered over iodine crystals and then left to dry. We would sprinkle the crystals on the floor, then, jump on them. There would be a small BANG and a little cloud of purple gas would come up. We thought that was hysterical. We had gotten to the point that we had hired a

secretary/bookkeeper. The office she worked in was some 50 feet from the washroom, with a concrete floor in between. Someone...not me...came up with the brilliant idea to sprinkle a trail of crystals from the office to the washroom, so when the secretary came out.... She came out of the office in her high heels, thus having an even greater pressure on the crystals, due to the small contact area. The first little bang had her confused as to what happened, then another, then another, all with greater clouds of purple gas. She started to run to the

washroom...BAD idea..bang's went to small booms, then a staccato, of small explosions, all accompanied by an ever increasing cloud of purple gas. We of course were in hysterics, but the language coming out of the washroom was not to be forgotten, and the threat of physical harm had us putting that little joke away!

On a more serious note, things did go bad over time. We had a couple of people who had no sense of safety, leading to some serious accidents, our first being an accident with nitric acid by our assayer, Barry. He just seemed plain accident prone, lighting the gas assay furnace after the gas had run too long before an actual flame was applied. He blew the door off the assay muffle furnace a few times, luckily he was not in front of it. I had to put my foot down and tell him he was not allowed to start the furnace, one of us would. One morning, he had to re-fill a nitric acid bottle from a keg of nitric, which for you to imagine is basically a beer keg size. There was a small hand pump in the drum, with a spigot that curved down to fill a bottle. He went to the drum WITHOUT his safety shield on, only his glasses. He must have been in a bit of a rush and gave the pump a faster pull and push. The spigot blew off and he got a full stroke of nitric acid right in his face. I was in the lab at the time and all I heard was a scream, then he came running though the door to the lab. His face, hair and shoulders were smoking, white fumes just boiling off him. Think of every horror movie you may have seen. One thing I have been blessed with my whole life is the ability to think fast on my feet. I grabbed him and dragged him to our lab sink, pushing his head down while I turned the tap on. My partner ripped Barry's shirt off, which was soaked in nitric, still cooking his neck and shoulders.



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I was worried about drowning him!

As Richmond was still very small then, I decided I would rush him to the hospital, as getting an ambulance then would just have taken too long. I was just getting into car racing then and had a very high performance oriented car, so we threw him into my passenger seat and off we went. I must have been doing around 80 MPH on Westminster Highway when an RCMP car hits his lights behind me...for speeding. I climb on the brakes and stop, he comes over, obviously ready to give me a ticket, I say; "Industrial accident, with acid!" He took one look at Barry and says: "Follow me!" I did the last 2 miles with a police escort.

Barry survived with minimal face scarring, which is a miracle. His glasses saved his eyes and his reflex action had his eye lids closed, so only they got some burning. His neck and ears got scarred, as the shirt held the nitric against his skin. As we all had long hair on the early 70's, the hair over his ears also held the nitric in, burning the tips severely. I shudder to think what he would have looked like if that sink had not been so close.

His final accident, before he quit, was he put a ladder up against the wall of the lab. He wanted to go up on the sub-ceiling to check our water still. He had the base of the ladder likely 8 feet away from the wall, so you know that is not going to work. Just as he got to the top of the ladder, some 8 feet up, the ladder base just kicked out, and he slid down the wall, screaming all the way. His hands of course are clutching the sides of the ladder, so when it hit the ground, it both knocked the wind out of him and PINCHED his fingers to the floor. It took two of us to lift him up, so we could free his hands, then, pumped his legs to get his lungs going. His legacy was the two ladder grooves down our gyp rock wall board. We felt bad for him but, it was hard not to laugh on that one.

Our other problem employee was Bevan, a walking accident, as his brain was not all in gear at times. Water...water and moisture, the most dangerous situations in a melt facility can be caused by plain old water. As Bevan was to find out the first time, it can cause a LOT of pain also. As we were silver refiners, we would take the impure silver dore bars and

pour them into anodes, to go into the electrolytic cells. As the anodes wore down, there would be a piece left that could not contact the solution, so it would get re-melted. These "anode heads" of course were wet from the tank solution. We were all made aware of how dangerous it could be to ADD, wet material to molten metal. One day, Bevan was pouring anodes, a three person job. I would run the overhead crane buttons, which lifted the crucible out of the furnace, then, Bevan and another person would tip the crucible holding cradle, to do the pour. There would always be some molten silver left in the crucible, then, more impure metal was added, which was SUPPOSED to be dry. Bevan thought he

could get away with adding some anode heads, which as it turned out were wet. I could not tell with my dark green face shield on. We were about to have a major lesson on what a steam spall is. *Cont'd on page 11*

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## WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

*Continued from page 9*


Imagine two people standing about 5 feet apart, facing each other, with the silver crucible in between the middle of them. I am standing just behind Bevan, with the crane control in my hand. Bevan reaches to the bucket with the anode heads and grabs a large handful, then drops them into the crucible. There is a huge snapping sound and then a blast that both goes straight up out of the crucible, and, BLOWS a hole in the side of the crucible, directly at Bevan's groin, hitting him like a shot gun charge, with molten silver particles. He of course reels backwards, knocking me down and the two of us end up a heap on the floor. He is yelling in pain like crazy, gets up and runs to the washroom to drop his pants and check out the damage. The other fellow is ducking falling fluorescent bulb glass, as the ejection upward has blown out the lights. This "small" detail will haunt Bevan in his next episode.

The blast hit him right in the groin, burning holes in his jeans and leaving small burns on every bit of skin, even the private parts, in a one foot radius. He hurt for a month over that stupid move. We were all lucky it was not worse.

We had a large 500 gallon tank, which held our "end" solutions, for final treatment. This involved lowering a 2 foot diameter aluminum disc into the solution, and the chemical reaction would precipitate out the last of the metals. During this process hydrogen was generated as an "off" gas. One day, as Bevan was walking by, he decided to throw his lit cigarette into the top of the tank. WHUMP...the hydrogen lit right away, and, as the gas was continually evolving, it started to burn like lightning bolts IN the solution, cracking and thumping away. I heard the first whump and went to see what was going on, finding Bevan in a panic as he realized ..... HOW DO WE PUT THIS OUT!!!!????? What the hell was he thinking? I was afraid we would have a major fire, as the odd gas ball ignited in the air, well above the fluid surface. Fortunately, we had a lid for the tank, stored in the back of the plant. I ran like hell and grabbed it, and like any fire, once it was starved for air, it went out.

In this time period, we had the Richmond fire department come, twice due to people driving down Highway 99 and as we had the blast furnace room door open, they thought the place was on fire, as the glow from the furnace was very bright at night and could be seen from the highway. *Continued on page 12*

Mark Rogina



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## WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

*Continued from page 11*

The third time was again when Bevan, a chemistry graduate from BCIT, decided it would be interesting to throw some old sodium metal into the ditch next to the plant. Sodium reacts VIOLENTLY with water, so as soon as it hit the water, it exploded, setting the dry grass on fire between the ditch and the railway tracks, and I mean exploded! We grabbed our hose but it just did not have the volume of water to do anything. So, the fire department was called! At least Bevan got a real dressing down from the fire guys for that one, another really stupid move. At this point the owner of the company was finally seeing there was an issue with this guy, but, it took one more MAJOR incident to rein him in. You would have thought he would have learned from the crucible explosion, but, it turns out not. We used to work late at times, as the furnaces would be hot, so we could keep some of the processes going well into the evening.

One day, around dinner, my good friend and I were working in the lab. Bevan and Doug were doing a pour in our smaller furnace room. I heard a pop, then a bang, and the sound of falling glass. Again, it turns out Bevan had added damp metal to a pour, which exploded straight up, taking out the lights. We ran out to see what had happened, looking up at the roof. We could see nothing going on and after taking another strip off Bevan, I left for dinner at Pizza Hut, along with my friend. Bevan and Doug said they would stay for another 20 minutes, just to make sure there were no issues up on the ceiling.

Evan and I were sitting in the Pizza Hut, which is on Westminster Highway, about 5 miles from work. As we were




just finishing up, we heard fire engines coming and they blew by the dinner. I kid you not, I said to Evan, "Wouldn't that be funny if they were heading to the plant, hah, hah!"

We left and as we came up over the Cambie Road over pass, I could see 50 feet of flame coming out of the roof of our plant! We were on fire! I blasted into the driveway, just as the fire guys were busting through the door, hoses in hand. The furnace room area was fully engulfed in flame. One of the fire guys grabbed me and asked me to point out any dangerous things, like acid containers, gas bottles, etc..

Here I was

getting dragged through the door, a wall of flame in front of me. Holy Mother of God.....as I pointed out some of the things, he just let loose with the hose, blowing stuff to oblivion with the pressure, as he wet it down. He broke at lot of stuff that the fire would not have damaged. As I went back out the door to the parking lot, the roof collapsed, and as it did that, it broke the gas line.

*Continued on page 14*



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# ADVERTISING PAGE

## PLACER PROPERTY FOR SALE

Two Placer Leases with valid mining permits and water rights, PL. L# 534113 & PL. L# 557647, totalling 756.53 Ha. Adjacent 3 Cell PL. C# 1014167 - 58.85 Ha. Directly north of the leases I own 23 cells - 451.08 Ha, PL. L# 1031574 (the north east corner crosses the Cariboo River, so water is abundant).

And on the east side of the Cariboo River, 4 km south of the south end of the Cariboo Lake, I own 14 PL. CL. Cels 274.27 Ha, PL. CL# 1034619.

If you are interested in any of these properties, please contact me by email:

[george@robsoncrushing.com](mailto:george@robsoncrushing.com) or Telephone (1-604-613-1907).

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Email: [timdkleman@msn.com](mailto:timdkleman@msn.com) or

Rick 250-991-0615

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## PLACER CLAIM FOR LEASE

Would like to lease out my placer claim to a miner who would use heavy machinery.

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6 cell tenure on Crownland all adjoining 20 kilometers North of Quesnel on both sides of Highway 97.

Hydro and rail line go through property. The topography of claim is made up of old river benches, further back from highway property is comprised of steeper terrain made of glacial till. Bedrock is on surface at river.

Sampling of a few years show best results in lower benches of gravel especially in an area of old workings, which has easy access at rest area.

The paydirt is near the surface at old workings and is covered with 3 meters of overburden in unworked areas 100 meters north, up to the hill.

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or email [adhale@shaw.ca](mailto:adhale@shaw.ca)

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Or come to our monthly meeting, we'll have them there.

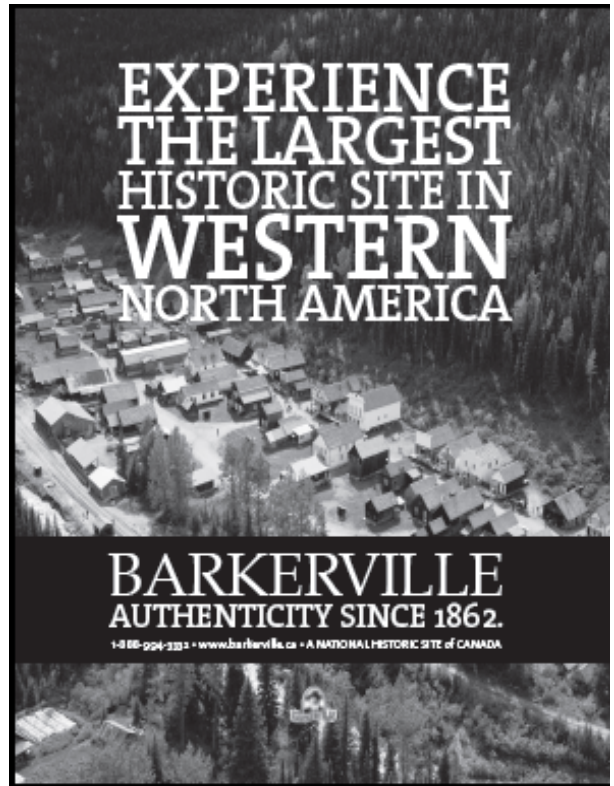
Now we have a huge blow torch on the ceiling. This really got the fire guys attention! There was a massive scramble to get to the gas meter, to try to shut the main off. The fire guys needed to eat more Wheaties, as they could not get it to move. In the next few seconds the company owner screams into the lot and blasts out of his car. He was a very strong guy, and grabs a section of pipe from the scrap we had, slides it over the gas valve lever, and shuts the blow torch off. Meanwhile, the guys with the hoses have started to get things wet downed, the tar and gravel roof being the hardest, which has now collapsed into the furnace room floor, with the tar spewing clouds of black smoke.

In the aftermath, we could only think that either a molten drop of silver sat up on the trusses, smoldering away, or, there was a slow electrical short from the lights getting blown out. Either way, something got going up on the ceiling, starting the fire. The lab survived, as did our chemical section of the refinery, other than some glass ware that was hit by the fire hoses.

As our neighbour next door had just moved out, the timing could not have been better, as we had run out of space in our existing facility. Within 3 weeks we had moved our furnaces over to that space and other than some smoke and water damage, the lab and refinery were able to keep going. I ended up with a nice new office, so I was quite happy. The fire was deemed an accident, yet at the same time, it was Bevan's careless work ethic that caused it.

Ultimately, even I ended up having a very bad accident, more from lack of experience I guess. I had worked in a sawmill, on a tug, ran a hay machine, construction, built fiberglass boats, etc. I was always aware of moving machinery, tools that could rip your hand off, stuff like that.

One day, in 1973, we had to rebuild our large, tilting, oil fired blast furnace. This required the furnace to be rotated on its' side. The lid, which weighed some 220 lbs, is swung up and held in position by a steel pin. The crucible is carefully removed from its base. Then, we would start to chisel away at the floor, using a long steel bar to hammer away at the base and the floor, to remove the worn refractory. *Cont'd on page 15*





## WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

*Continued from page 14*

What happened next we can only surmise? At some point, the vibration and impact from the hammering must have let the lid shift away from the so called safety pin. My upper body was leaning into the opening of the furnace. The lid swung down and either it, or the steel bar, whacked the side of my head and jaw. I remember nothing, as apparently I walked into the lab, sat down on a chair and was pure white. I just sat there. The guys called for an ambulance and I was rushed to Vancouver

General, where it was deemed I had gotten hit and had a major concussion, to the point that I had total amnesia. While my jaw was not broken, it was kind of dislocated and that would haunt me later into my 40's when it turned out I had a ton of hairline fractures in my rear molars, causing me all sorts of dental issues. I knew my name, but that was it. The nurse kept checking on me, asking me what had happened. All I apparently could say was that I knew that something happened as I was in the hospital. It took about 4 days, when familiar faces would show up, that things slowly came back. In looking at what happened, I can only think that I heard the lid slip from the pin and was starting to pull myself out of the opening of the furnace, so I only got a glancing blow. If my full head and body had been in there, I either would have been decapitated or just crushed. That was my life time warning shot for sure. Anytime I did or do anything, I take a really good look at the situation...FIRST! That lid should have been chained up in place.

Over the years we got wiser and smarter and our hiring policy became one of people with a real mechanical sense and situational awareness, as a gold and silver melt and refinery facility is a very dangerous environment.

As I wrote this story, it brought back a lot of memories, good and bad, of an industry I helped develop here on the West Coast. I taught myself to melt and refine gold and silver, to pure product, then take that pure material and make it into bullion investment products and jewelry casting alloys. At one point my alloys supplied all of Vancouver, Seattle, and we were starting to get into the Los Angeles market at the time, no mean feat. In that time period, we started to develop the placer mining business, as the miners were more than happy to deal with a west coast business, and not have to deal with eastern Canada.

To this day, the placer mining industry is our mainstay.

Next issue...the largest scam I have ever seen!!!!



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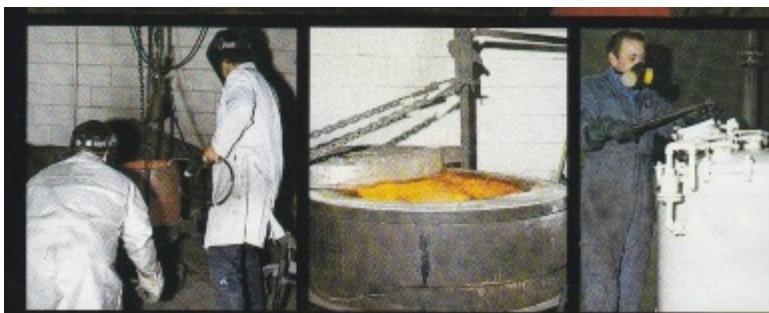
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**GOLD**

**GOLD**

**GOLD**



**EARTHQUAKES and GOLD** by *Edith Ellingson*

Scientific studies in recent years have suggested that there is a link between earthquakes and the formation of gold and other minerals. According to Dr. Dion Weatherby, who co-authored a paper in regards to the University of Queensland’s Sustainable Mineral Institute experiments suggest that seismic activity during an earthquake could be the primary mechanism in the formation of mineral deposits. Not only the large earthquakes but smaller quakes of magnitude 4 and less can create enough pressure within the fault to bring about a sudden release of heated water that is under extreme pressure..

Gold arrives at the earth’s crust by fluids that percolate through the rock fractures and when conditions cause these fluids to evaporate suddenly, as in an earthquake, the gold and minerals are deposited in these fractures as it cools. The extreme and sudden reduction in pressure in these fractures causes the fluid to expand to a low density vapour known as “flash evaporation” and this can result in quartz veins with gold and other trace elements. Think of a pressure cooker .....as you release the pressure the water instantly vaporizes turning into steam. The water which can be 6 to 10 miles below the earth’s surface is highly concentrated with carbon dioxide, silica and mineral elements when the extreme pressure is released it forces the the silica and minerals out of the fluids. Volcanoes can cause a similar process to take place. Small quakes of magnitude of 2 to 4 frequently occur and go mostly unnoticed and some major gold “fields” are in fault zones.

The Cariboo itself has several fault lines, California , Alaska and the Yukon all have fault zones and these areas seem to be where the highest concentration of gold occurs. Some of the mineralized ore is forced upward during the movements in the earth’s mantle thus bringing the ore closer to the surface. If the ore is exposed to weathering it’ll eventually breakdown and make it’s way into the rivers and .streams. In some of these areas the ice glaciers during the Ice Age have dragged and deposited the gold and minerals as they progressed forward in their melt and movement.

**Application for Membership**



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# Gold Rush: Atlin, BC by Edith Ellingson

The gold rush that built the town of Atlin started when the miners in 1898 trudged up the Chilcot Trail on their way to the discovery of gold around Dawson City in the Yukon. A few of the gold seekers ventured off the trail, two of these were Fritz Millar, a German immigrant and Kenneth MacLaren from Nova Scotia who strayed off the trail at the area where Atlin is today. Atlin is in the far north west corner of British Columbia situated on the shores of the beautiful Atlin Lake. Fritz and Kenneth worked the creeks looking for gold and at Pine Creek they found lots of it. When the news got out the rush was on. Many that were headed for Dawson City diverted to the Pine Creek area and soon the tent town of Discovery, also known as Pine City was built with 10,000 hopeful gold miners working the creeks. The town soon moved to the shores of Atlin Lake with banks, stores, saloons, gambling, hotels, brothels and many other services to provide goods and supplies for the miners needs.

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Flocks of miners came from Europe and America to work the various creeks like the Pine, Spruce, Ruby, McKee and Birch and these creeks still yield gold today. Dredges sprung up on the Pine and Spruce Creeks, heavy equipment, draglines, floaters and mining companies came to mine the gravels.

The Spruce yielded some very large nuggets, nuggets as large as 36 and 28 ounces were found with the largest being 83 ounces also known as “the loaf” it did contain some quartz. *Cont'd on page 18*

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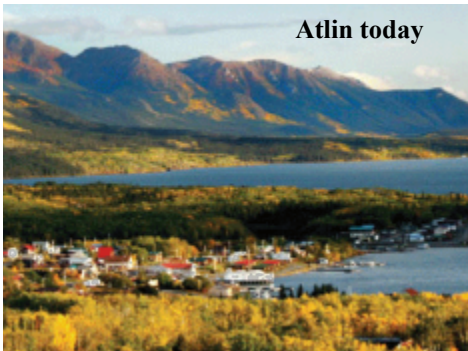
# Gold Rush: Atlin, BC

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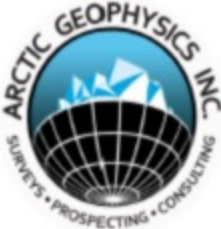
In 1901 Atlin (and Dawson City) were linked to the rest of the world overland by telegraph through the Quesnel Telegraph Office to Vancouver and so the world. Freight and supplies came to Atlin by dogsled and tractor trains pulling freight sleds in the winter. Steam stern wheelers and eventually the White Pass Railway brought people and goods. The first train up there was in 1900 travelled from Taku to Atlin Lake, a whole two and a half miles long with the highest fare in the world of \$2.00. Chartered air flights were too expensive for the average miner, although today planes serve Atlin with tourists looking for various adventures in the area. In 1949 a gravel road was completed from Jake's Corner in the Yukon to Atlin.

Today, Atlin has a population of 400 to 500 permanent residents and mining still goes on, Chiefton Metals, Brixton Metals and even the old Engineer Mine continue to operate not only mining gold but silver and other metals. To get to Atlin you have to fly in, drive the Alaska Highway through the Yukon or come through Skagway, Alaska.

The Atlin Lake is 85 miles long and 5 miles wide with scenic mountains to the west and a large glacier reaches from the southwest corner of the lake almost to Juneau, Alaska, the Llewellyn Glacier is the largest ice field on our continent. South of the town of Atlin is a warm pool fed by an underground spring surrounded by watercress that is enjoyed by tourists and the locals as a place for a picnic. And of course there is still gold to find.



Atlin today



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# the Miners Page

*This page is where miners can tell their stories or their experiences.*



*We welcome your comments, letters, stories, complaints, frustrations, ideas & anything nice you have to say. If you would like to contribute an article email it to: [edigspe@yahoo.ca](mailto:edigspe@yahoo.ca) or [cariboominingassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:cariboominingassociation@hotmail.com) or mail it to: Cariboo Mining Association, Box 4184, Quesnel, BC V2J 6T9*

**The opinions expressed on this page are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Cariboo Mining Association**

## Gold in Your Drinking Water??

by *Edith Ellingson*

In Whitehall, Montana about 25 miles southeast of Butte residents found gold flecks in their tap water in the summer in 2014. When Sharon Brown finished washing dishes and was draining the water out of her sink she saw gold flecks remaining. When the flecks were checked out, the chemical test showed that sure enough it was gold, pure gold to the Brown's disbelief. Their neighbour, Paul Harper is also finding gold specks in their drinking water. But the town peoples greatest concern is "what else is in their drinking water?" But the testing showed that the water quality is okay. The city's water testing has never found any contamination of heavy metals in their water. The town's water supply comes from two wells located in the town, so where is the gold coming from?

There is an open pit gold mine, the Golden Sunlight which opened in 1982 five miles Northeast of town. NBC reported that an official with the State Department of Environmental Quality said there's no reason to suspect the gold came from the mine.

Officials feel that the flecks of gold come from a water pump, pipes or other equipment in use.

Imagine turning you tap on and finding gold in your water...I wish!! I would surely have a good filter to catch the gold, no back breaking work there to get some gold.

### Quote:

The desire for gold is the most universal and deeply rooted commercial instinct of the human race.

*Gerald M. Loeb*



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