

THE COURIER'S
LEADING
stories

“ I knew it was a political fundraiser. ”

Sharon Tucker, p. A3



FACE OF THE WEEK:

Ashley Merritt-Carr, of Chamcook, seems entranced by a clam she found at the touch tank of the new Fundy Discovery Centre in Saint Andrews.

Vern Faulkner/Courier

MOUNT PLEASANT MINE TO BEGIN PRODUCTION IN 2015

Mine will create 50-75 jobs in eastern Charlotte County

Barb Rayner

MOUNT PLEASANT

Adex Mining hopes to begin mining in the Fire Tower Zone (FTZ) at Mount Pleasant Mine in early 2015 and Charlotte-The Isles MLA Rick Doucet said this is exciting news for the area.

In keeping with that plan, the company has begun metallurgical feasibility testing which is required to re-start production and this is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2012.

Doucet, who met with Patrick Merrin, the company's chief operating officer when he was in St. George last week, said, "It definitely sounds exciting. It is good news on the horizon. It is not on the immediate horizon but they are very seriously looking at getting operations into full production.

"It is going to take a little bit of work on the front end but I hope we will all be there to support them. This is good news for St. George and the surrounding areas and we have a great roadway."

In a telephone interview from Toronto Friday, Merrin said the company's goal is for the mine to be in full production by 2015 and the company is assembling plans to meet that goal.

Between now and then, he said, Adex must build a waste water treatment facility, dewater the mine and build all the necessary infrastructure.

All that is left since the former Billiton operation closed, said Merrin, is the shell of the building, the mine and the tailings pond. He said Adex hopes to begin the preliminary work within a year.

There are two mines on the site and he said they plan to work on the Fire Tower Zone first. Merrin anticipates they will be hiring between 50 and 75 when they go into full production.

"I expect we should be able to get people from the local area. We are going to want to bring in as many locals into the fold as we can. The only reason to go outside is if we can't find a person to fill a position locally."

Currently there are seven people working at the mine, he said, which includes maintenance staff as well as geologists. Merrin said there are people in Toronto working with the engineers.

Merrin recently met with St. George Mayor Sharon Tucker, Deputy Mayor Bruce Jackson and CAO Ross Norman to introduce himself and let them know the company's plans for the mine.

"They have offered to be extremely helpful and so has the provincial government."

Merrin said the high-grade drill results from the company's fall scoping study showed the potential for a significantly longer mine life for this project.

"A longer mine life, combined with the strong tungsten markets, indicate that the financials from the Aker Solution scoping study could be significantly improved.

Better than expected results from the 2011 drill program identified intercepts containing high grade tungsten, molybdenum and bismuth at the North Zone (NZ) and Saddle Zone which lies between the NZ and FTZ - about 500 m from each.

These results support the change to the company's development strategy and extend known ore ranges.

"The geology, mining and metallurgy for the Fire Tower Zone are all well understood because it was previously mined by Billiton Exploration Canada back in the mid-80s.

"This also makes the Fire Tower Zone a lower risk project as we continue to better understand how to maximize value from the North Zone.

"The North Zone testing that was completed earlier this year has given us good direction in how to handle the metallurgy of that resource but further testing is required." The plan also includes the production of potential final marketable metal products from the FTZ such as ammonia para-tungstate and molybdenum dioxide or molybdenic oxide, which are in demand in the high-tech metals industry.

Adex is a Canadian junior mining company focused on developing its flagship Mount Pleasant Mine property, a multi-metal project that is host to tungsten-molybdenum and tin-indium-zinc mineralization.

Doucet said his experience with Mount Pleasant goes back to the mid-eighties when he was a St. George town councillor working with Billiton, who operated the mine for a number of years and developed two new subdivisions in the town. When the mine closed, the homes were all sold.

"For years and years we've heard about exploration, drilling and money being spent on

further exploration and feasibility studies but this time around is probably the most positive piece of information we have seen."

However, said Doucet, there is still a lot of work to do and it will probably be three years before the company could go into full production because they still have to do things like pump out the mine and construct equipment on the site.

"The buildings are still there but the actual mining equipment has to be purchased and there is a lot of fabrication to do at the front end of the project but I think within a couple of years we will see some activity taking place there.

"They still have lots of hurdles to get over but this is the most positive information I have had for years. Look at what is happening in Charlotte County with the decline in population we have seen.

"If this gives some new hope and opportunity for people I think it is all positive for our area for a good many years. It is great news for some of the youth in our area as major projects like the refurbishment of Point Lepreau wind down."

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CORRECTIONS

In the Courier Weekend editorial of Feb. 14, we incorrectly spelled the name of Shippagan. Writes former resident J. Frank Ferguson, "The word is of Mi'kmaq origin, Sepagun-chiche, meaning duck passage. Over time, the use of Shippegan, or Shippagan as we know it today, became the norm."

Our story on junior volleyball coaches, Courier Weekend, p. 7 contained an error: the varsity girls coach is Tracey Worrell. (However, we're pleased to note that SSSHS has now gained its required junior coaches.)

100 DAYS MARKED



Brian Mumford/Courier

Grade 1 student Cody Peters produces one of 100 balloons as his classmates count along at St. Stephen Elementary on Friday. That day was "100 day" at the school, where students celebrate the 100th day of the school year. Holding the bag of balloons is Grade 2 teacher Lisa McAllen.

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LOTTERY

KENO ATLANTIC

- For Thursday, February 16 are: 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 21, 26, 27, 30, 36, 37, 40, 41, 45, 48, 51, 60, 61, 64, 66.
- For Friday, February 17 are: 1, 7, 8, 12, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 40, 45, 56, 65, 69.
- For Saturday, February 18 are: 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 18, 23, 25, 32, 37, 38, 49, 50, 51, 56, 58, 64, 66, 67.
- For Sunday, February 19 are: 9, 14, 15, 16, 22, 28, 31, 32, 40, 41, 42, 45, 48, 50, 55, 59, 61, 66, 68, 69.
- For Monday, February 20 are: 6, 12, 16, 22, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, 42, 49, 50, 51, 54, 57, 64, 66.

LOTTO MAX

• Unofficial winning numbers for February 18 are: 4, 12, 14, 21, 22, 37. Bonus 28. Estimated jackpot \$7 million.

BUCKO

- February 16 - 4, 14, 15, 19, 35.
- February 17 - 2, 5, 9, 17, 19.
- February 18 - 11, 15, 18, 29, 41.
- February 19 - 18, 25, 27, 37, 38.
- February 20 - 16, 25, 34, 37, 41.

TAG

- For February 16 draw is 254155.
- For February 17 draw is 674975.
- For February 18 draw is 592268.
- For February 19 draw is 632517.
- For February 20 draw is 591550.

LOTTO 6/49

• Unofficial winning numbers for Saturday, Feb. 17 are: 1, 15, 26, 28, 31, 39, 49. Bonus 18. Jackpot est. \$20 million.

ATLANTIC 49

• Unofficial winning numbers for February 18: 7, 14, 24, 34, 40, 42. Bonus 10.

TIDES

Based on Saint John tides.

To adjust at St. Stephen, high add 8 minutes, low add 28 minutes; St. Andrews, high add 8 minutes, low add 7 minutes; Fairhaven, Deer Island, high add 3 minutes, low add 9 minutes; Welshpool, high add 1 minute, low add 6 minutes; North Head, high or low, subtract 5 minutes; Back Bay, high subtract 7 minutes, low subtract 6 minutes.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Highs: 12:22 a.m. - 25.6 / 12:42 p.m. - 25.9

Lows: 6:35 a.m. - 3.3 / 6:57 p.m. - 3.0

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Highs: 1:02 a.m. - 25.3 / 1:23 p.m. - 25.3

Lows: 7:16 a.m. - 3.3 / 7:36 p.m. - 3.6

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Highs: 1:42 a.m. - 25.3 / 2:03 p.m. - 24.6

Lows: 7:56 a.m. - 3.9 / 8:15 p.m. - 3.9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Highs: 2:21 a.m. - 24.6 / 2:44 p.m. - 24.3

Lows: 8:36 a.m. - 4.3 / 8:55 p.m. - 4.9

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Highs: 3:02 a.m. - 24.3 / 3:27 p.m. - 23

Lows: 9:18 a.m. - 4.9 / 9:37 p.m. - 5.9

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Highs: 3:46 a.m. - 23.6 / 4:13 p.m. - 22.3

Lows: 10:03 a.m. - 5.9 / 10:22 p.m. - 6.6

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Highs: 4:33 p.m. - 23.0 / 5:03 p.m. - 21.3

Lows: 10:52 a.m. - 6.6 / 11:13 / 7.2

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Highs: 5:25 a.m. - 22.3 / 5:59 p.m. - 21

Lows: 11:46 a.m. - 6.9

Based on St. Andrews tide tables



WEATHER

From Environment Canada

Tonight... Increasing cloudiness. 40 percent chance of flurries overnight. Low minus 5.

Wednesday... Cloudy. 40 percent chance of flurries early in the morning. Flurries or rain showers beginning in the morning. High plus 3.

EXTENDED

Thursday... A mix of sun and cloud. Low minus 3. High 6.

Friday... Periods of rain. Low minus 9. High plus 1.

MARINE - Grand Manan...

Wednesday... Periods of rain ending in the morning then cloudy with 60 percent chance of showers. Wind becoming west 30 km/h late in the evening. High plus 4.

Thursday... Cloudy. Low minus 3. High plus 5.

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Mayor thanks council for supporting CAO

Kathy Bockus

ST. STEPHEN

The mayor of this community has publicly thanked the council for its support of John Ferguson, the town's chief administration officer.

Ferguson, a former City of Saint John councillor, is on a paid leave of absence for the next five weeks while he attends a defamation hearing launched by the city's pension board over comments he made about the board while he was a councillor.

The mayor said Ferguson is being paid because he is continuing to work for the town, even though he is out of town attending the hearing.

At the beginning of Monday night's council meeting, the mayor announced Ferguson was unable to attend because he was "tied up."

"But he's as close as the telephone if we have any questions we can't answer."

Later during the meeting, the mayor thanked the councillors for their "support given to our illustrious CAO."

"He's got a stiff upper lip on this thing, but it is tough going and he appreciates what it is that you're doing keeping in touch with him, not for information on how it's going.

"He's having a tough time, as anybody would."

Following the meeting Purcell said Ferguson is available to the town every day if necessary.

He admitted though there were things he felt staff in St. Stephen should be able to take care of without bothering Ferguson.

"The point is he really loves this town," said Purcell.

The mayor said he cautioned Ferguson about overextending himself working while the hearing is conducted.

He said he told the CAO "you're not worth a damn to us if you take on too much."

While he said it was important for the council to show its support for Ferguson, the mayor declined to comment specifically about the case, including whether he thought the defamation suit should have been laid in the first place.