

PONDERING PROSPECTS



Barb Rayner/Courier
Left: Mount Pleasant Mine, now owned by Adex Mining, could become a working operation again in the not too distant future.

■ St. George hoping to work with Adex if Mount Pleasant mine reopens

BY BARB RAYNER
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MOUNT PLEASANT – If Adex Mining reopens Mount Pleasant Mine then the town of St. George hopes to become a bedroom community for some of the employees.

Deputy Mayor Bruce Jackson, Coun. John Norman and town manager Ross Norman met with Adex president and CEO Errol Farr and other company representatives at the mine Thursday for some informal discussions.

Farr explained that the company will begin work on a feasibility study in the new year, a process expected to take six to eight months. A decision on whether the mine will reopen hinges on the economics.

“In order to dot the i’s and cross the t’s to get everyone on side you have to do a definitive feasibility study which builds on what we have already done and increases the confidence level of our plans.”

The company also has to meet government-imposed regulations and guidelines, he noted, including an ongoing environmental impact study. Adex is working with a standing committee involving both the provincial and federal environment departments, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

John Norman said the town would certainly like to see the mine re-open. He said two sub-divisions were built in St. George when Billiton operated the mine back in the 1980s and the town continues to benefit from all the housing put in place.

Ross Norman said currently there is little housing available in the town but Dexter Construction, who are working on the new highway, have set up a work camp in the town for 200 workers which they will use for a three-year period.

Land has been cleared, power installed along with water and sewer connections, he said, noting another 32 acres there which would be ideal for future housing development.

The town would like to open a dialogue with Adex so that if the company does go into production at Mount Pleasant they have an idea of what would be needed for housing, Ross said.

“We have people who want to put housing in there. We do have developers who want to find out what is happening. We definitely want to be partners with you,” he told Farr.

Jackson added that they would like to see St. George become a bedroom community for the mine and pointed out that the town is about a half hour’s drive from Saint John and a half-hour from the U.S. border.

Farr said he thought 2011 would be the year for that dialogue to begin. If the feasibility study is completed by next August, he said, there will be about a six-month period when they go through the permitting stage.

“At that point you have lined up financing – which we theo-

retically have – and have raised some additional money and we are starting to go.”

The next step, said Farr, would be ordering and installing equipment and if everything goes according to plan the mine could be in production by the end of 2012.

“We would have between 100 and 150 people on site during construction and they would need a lot of temporary quarters because they are here for about a year.”

Once the mine goes into production, said Farr, the company would hire about 150 workers. The first phase of the project would be working at the North Zone where there is tin, indium and zinc.

If commercial production commences at the North Zone, the second step in Adex’s development strategy is to utilize cash flows from the North Zone, its production experience and its enhanced balance sheet to bring the Fire Tower Zone into commercial production where there is tungsten and molybdenum. This would create another 150 jobs.

Farr said they are still studying whether they can process ore on site. Technical work has now been completed which indicates that indium and zinc could be finished to marketable products on site – something that hasn’t been done elsewhere. Test work is still under way, he said, but Adex sees that as a very viable option.

Victor Hendricken, vice-president of operations, said the infrastructure at Mount Pleasant has been maintained in very good condition over the years although there is no equipment in the buildings, he noted.

“Billiton spent a lot of money here. We don’t have to rebuild any of the buildings. We only have to do some moving around of some of the structure. Basically the front-end is essentially the same. All we have to do is bring in equipment.”

Billiton took water from the river but Hendricken said Adex would recycle water from the tailings pond to use in their processing.

“We have a waste water treatment system that brings water practically back to drinking water quality,” he said.

Mount Pleasant is a multi-metal mine and right now the prices for those metals are looking good. Farr said the price of zinc is steady, the price of tin was at an all-time high in October, the price of indium has been very steady since 2008, the price of tungsten has risen quite a bit and while the price of molybdenum has dropped from its 2008 level, it is going back up slowly.

He said they don’t want to get into the position that Billiton got into by relying on only one metal. It relied on tungsten, he said, and when the market collapsed, the mine closed.

Molybdenum is the highest revenue generator from Mount Pleasant, said Farr, but it is not a world-class deposit and, similarly, while the tungsten and zinc deposits are good, they are also not world-class.

“The tin does not have the greatest grade but this is the only tin mine in North America. It is a world-class indium deposit, though. Mount Pleasant has the highest grade and the largest indium deposit in the world that we know of.”



Barb Rayner/Courier
Allison Murphy of Adex Mining works on some core samples at Mount Pleasant Mine.

OPINION

Join together to counter bullying

What colour are you wearing on Friday? I’ll be proudly wearing blue, the color of the anti-bullying awareness ribbon, to mark New Brunswick’s second annual anti-bullying day. What does this day mean? It means several things, but to me personally, it highlights the importance of making sure that the issue of bullying is not forgotten, and is discussed year round.

Lately, the issue of bullying has been front and centre, not only in provincial media, but also on a national level. Unfortunately, most are not positive news stories. In a few short months, we have learned of several suicides in the United States related to the issue of bullying, because the student was gay. Within our own province, parents in two families have held one-person protests, each in reaction to their child being bullied. An incident at Saint Thomas University recently made headlines, when a transgendered student was assaulted while entering a washroom on campus.

Several different initiatives have been started to raise awareness on the issue of bullying, not just in the school-yard, but in the workplace as well. Respectful workplace week now takes place in both the City of Fredericton, and the province of New Brunswick during the month of September. But

GUEST COLUMN

ROB FRENETTE



I’m now an anti-bullying activist, but for eleven and a half years, I was a target of bullying. How did the abuse at the hands of my classmates affect me? I still very vividly recall the sick feeling at the pit of my stomach, the name calling, the pushing, shoving, and being made fun of – events that took place almost every day of my school years, from kindergarten to nearly the end of high school. The bruises have long vanished, but I’ve come to accept that some of the echoes may haunt me forever. Many people are surprised that I consider myself one of the fortunate few – until I explain that these echoes made me stronger. They gave me the drive to make a difference, pushing me to help youth locked in the misery of bullying all across Canada.

It’s been just more than two years since I crossed that high school graduation stage, and eventually left my hometown of Bathurst. On my way to completing the NBCC Woodstock’s journalism

program, I’ve worked the front lines, attempting to get anti-bullying legislation introduced to the New Brunswick Education Act; and presenting several thousand names to the House of Commons, asking the federal government to introduce federal anti-bullying legislation. In 2010, anti-bullying day was proclaimed in our province by the government of the day, with full support from the Opposition of the day. And on Friday, I am looking forward the solid support of several organizations, including the Canadian Red Cross, and PFLAG Canada.

In preparation for a recent radio talk show, I was asked a very compelling question. “Why have you made this your life goal, to be an anti-bullying activist?” While I took a moment to gather my thoughts, the answer has always been quite simple: I feel that no student should have to endure what I did, in order to make change in our province.

It’s anti-bullying day in New Brunswick on Friday. I invite you to wear the colour blue, and let others know that you’ve taken a stand against bullying behaviour. For support, information and resources, please visit bullyingcanada.ca, call 877-352-4497, or chat on-line with us today.

**Rob Frenette
 Fredericton**

EDUCATION

St. Stephen’s University appeals for funds

ST. STEPHEN – St. Stephen’s University is asking for funds to help it continue its work developing young men and women into Christian leaders and articulate world citizens.

In a letter, university president Bob Cheatley calls SSU “an educational jewel,” saying the school offers an alternative to public universities

on one hand and traditional religious educational approaches on the other.

After a second year of low enrolment SSU is undertaking a serious examination of its programs and marketing strategies, including online marketing initiatives that already show initial signs of success.

Donations can be made by calling the SSU office at 1-888-225-7788 or 466-1781 during regular business hours or online at www.ssu.ca/donate/.

FLASHBACK PHOTOS WANTED!



Do you have an old photo that would be of interest to our readers? You can bring your photos in and we will scan them before you leave so you can take them home.

Family pictures do not qualify unless there is a particular event being depicted in them.

**Drop by our office at
 47 Milltown Blvd., St. Stephen
 if you have an interesting photo to share.**



Firefighters host Christmas decorating contest

BY KATHY BOCKUS
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ST. STEPHEN – Are there any outdoor lights decorating your house and shrubbery this year?

Is that inflatable snowman/igloo/ Santa in full figure and bobbing about on the lawn?

What about the lighted candy canes? And don’t forget the animated reindeer and the red bows.

It’s time for the annual Harold Burns Decorating Contest, sponsored by the St. Stephen Fire Department.

Each year firefighters honour the memory of Burns, a former fire truck driver with the department, with the contest judged by his widow Sally. Any house in the greater St. Stephen area with exterior Christmas decorations is eligible for the contest. The winner will be chosen Dec. 17.

Burns leads a panel of judges in the selection of each year’s winner who receives a \$100 NBPower gift certificate from the fire department.

“Harold loved decorating for Christmas,” said Dwayne Richards, a captain with the St. Stephen

fire department.

“He loved Christmas. I used to live right beside him when I was a kid. I’d like to encourage everyone to get into the spirit of the season and decorate.”

Richards said when his children were small, it was his family’s tradition to attend the annual Christmas concert at the Milltown Elementary School and then drive around and see all the Christmas lights.

“Now I do it with the grandkids,” said Richards with a laugh