

Tamerlane seeks financing for Pine Point

Two hundred jobs expected if lead and zinc mine returns to full operations

by Sara Wilson

Northern News Services

Hay River

From 1963 to when it shut down in 1987, Pine Point – about 70 km west of Fort Resolution – was home to one of the largest and most profitable lead-zinc mines in Canadian history.

Then in 2008, Tamerlane Ventures Inc. decided the old mine had life in it yet.

With figures suggesting Pine Point has already produced 64 million tonnes of ore, Tamerlane is certain the Pine Point Development will yield large results.

"There's been over 64 million tonnes mined there since the 25 years that Cominco ran it," said Tamerlane CEO Michael Willett. "We've got information on 42 deposits on 50 million tonnes."

With figures in the high millions, the project has attracted a lot of attention from potential investors, a decision on which company will help finance the project will come later this year.

With construction permits already in place, Willett believes the process is moving along quickly because of all the work done in the previous years.

"Our focus this year has been to do the definitive engineering and that would allow us, when we put the shovel in the dirt, to move forward," Willett said. "There's been a lot of work that has taken place in the spring, engineering work (specially).

"On top of that, in terms of the original permits, there are requirements for submissions for technical information and we're working through and getting ready to do those submissions. It's all part and parcel of moving the project forward to the construction phase."

Permits

Through further consultation on the project, Tamerlane has changed the access ramp to the Pine Point Mine from a shaft to a ramp, leaving new permits to be attained.

"That work has all been done and applications have been submitted to regulators and we're working through the process and the expectation is that those permits will be re-issued with new terms this year."

In addition to high yields, Tamerlane is expecting the project to produce many economic opportunities for the surrounding communities and the North in general.

"We do have a lot of support from the south side of (Great) Slave Lake, there hasn't been a great deal of opportu-

ities for employment this is what this project brings to the table, is of course jobs," Willett said. "We're looking at 200 jobs for the project when it gets up and running.

"We also see spinoffs on top of that, for instance contractors in Hay River and Fort Resolution being part of the project. We certainly have the support of the aboriginal groups in the area in Hay River and Fort Resolution."

Training programs and a commitment to employing Northerners are part of the company's mandate for the project, Willett said, adding that while there is no ratio for Northern employment, the intent is to utilize all skills within the area.

"What we envision is training locally and hiring locally and trying to minimize bringing people in from the south."

With the process moving along smoothly and an expected start date fast approaching, the Pine Point Mine will be moving away from its history and into a profitable future.

"This is only the start," Willett said. "There's 42 deposits we are working at bring some of the other deposits up to levels of compliance and the intention is to continue rolling these deposits in over a period of time rather than the current eight years that we have for this phase with six deposits."

"We envision up to 15 to 20 years and we roll the other deposits into play."

fact file

Company: Tamerlane Venture Ltd.

Location: South side of Great Slave Lake, 42 km east of Hay River and 140 km west of Fort Resolution

Estimated Resources: 50 millions tonnes from 42 deposits

Estimated jobs: 200

Status: Tamerlane plans to pursue longer term development in the Pine Point area utilizing the existing infrastructure to access other deposits in the 175 square kilometre property.



photo courtesy of Tamerlane Ventures Inc.

Tamerlane is breathing new life into the Pine Point lead and zinc mine, and is hoping to bring six of its deposits up to compliance levels.



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Geoscience Forum returns

Annual mining conference expected to bring several hundred delegates to Yellowknife

by Sara Wilson
Northern News Services
Yellowknife

The City of Yellowknife once again welcomes the mining industry to the 39th annual Geoscience Forum Nov. 15 to 17.

The event is organized by a committee of members of

the Chamber of Mines NWT and Nunavut chapter, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Government of the NWT, mining companies and the service industry.

The forum showcases Yellowknife, as hundred of delegates descend on the city,

with hopes of networking and learning more about the industry.

"As the largest Northern conference, it brings economic value to the city," said Tom Hoefler, executive director of the Chamber of Mines NWT and Nunavut Chapter. "Approximately half of the

participants come from out of town and these delegates spend numerous nights in hotels and may even spend money on tourist type purchases."

"Last year this was about \$160,000 spent in Yellowknife," Hoefler said. "This is an important injection of new monies into the economy."

This year, like last, the forum features prominent speakers.

"Each year the conference hosts a different assortment of speakers from government geoscientists sharing their latest research, to industry

Nearly 800 delegates attended the Geoscience Forum last year and NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines executive director Tom Hoefler is anticipating a similar number in attendance.

NNSL file photo

geologists sharing their latest exploration findings," Hoefler said prior to the conference.

"We hope to have speakers describing industry's work with aboriginal communities, and advances governments and others may be making on the regulatory front."

With nearly 800 delegates attending the forum last year, Hoefler is anticipating a similar number in attendance.

"Last year there were 791 registered delegates and we anticipate the same or hopefully even more this year," Hoefler said.

"The conference is the largest in the North and as such, offers considerable variety of speakers, trade show displays, and participants. Since the minerals industry is the largest private sector contributor to the NWT economy, this

conference provides those already participating, or wanting to participate in the industry with the best opportunity to learn more, to meet relevant contacts and to network with like-minded people."

Day three of the forum is open to the public, with the remainder of the events open only to registered delegates and exhibitors.

This year the public can take part in the Charles Camsell talk sponsored by the NWT Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists.

"The speaker this year has just been selected, and will be Dr. Geoff Plumlee a Harvard graduate and now research geochemist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) who specializes in environmental and human health research," Hoefler said.

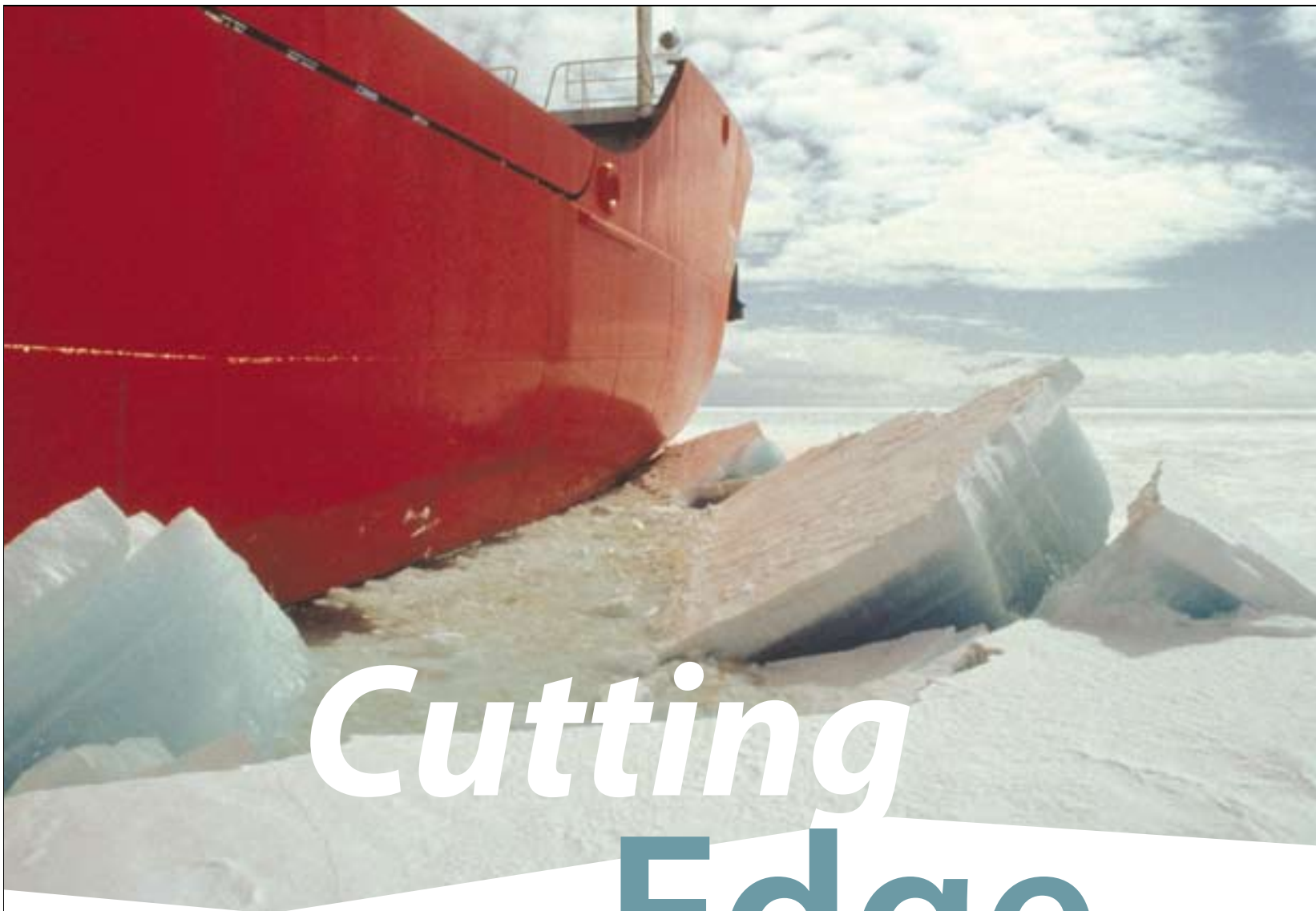
"He and his USGS associates have helped assess potentially hazardous materials produced by a number of recent disasters, including dusts from the 2001 World Trade Centre collapse and flood waters and sediments from hurricane Katrina."

This year the mines chamber has garnered national attention, with the Prime Minister of Canada showing his support while on a visit to Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank gold mine near Baker Lake. Harper announced funding for the chambers new office in Iqaluit to promote the mining industry in Nunavut.

"We were very grateful to receive high level support for the Chamber of Mines from none other than the Prime Minister himself, for our work to champion for a healthy minerals industry in the North," Hoefler said. "This kind of attention from such a high level is helping raise our profile and the importance of the work we do to strengthen the Northern economy."

The three-day geoscience forum is a culmination of volunteer efforts throughout the community and a joint venture between the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office (NTGO) and the Chamber of Mines.

"The NTGO invests significant staff time and resources into making the forum a success," Hoefler said. "We have many, many volunteers who offer their time and efforts because they have fun doing so, and they believe and support the forum. We are very thankful for all of their hard work and dedication. In addition, we get tremendous support from Chamber members who sponsor meals, coffee breaks, and other hospitality and who register booths at the trade show."



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