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COMING EVENTS

MOOSECALAC

FEBRUARY 13th - 17th

VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 14th

VALENTINE'S DANCE

FEBRUARY 15th

FAMILY DAY

FEBRUARY 17th

JUNIE B. JONES

FEBRUARY 25th

Have a community event coming up?

Let us know and we will include it here!

info@thetimesstar.ca



GERALDTON

Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY



CLOUDY WITH SUNNY BREAKS

HIGH: -12°C
LOW: -21°C

THURSDAY



LIGHT SNOW

HIGH: -18°C
LOW: -24°C

FRIDAY



FEW FLURRIES

HIGH: -18°C
LOW: -28°C

SATURDAY



VARIABLE CLOUDINESS

HIGH: -16°C
LOW: -29°C

SUNDAY



FEW FLURRIES

HIGH: -12°C
LOW: -19°C

MONDAY



VARIABLE CLOUDINESS

HIGH: -4°C
LOW: -15°C

TUESDAY



CLOUDY PERIODS

HIGH: -9°C
LOW: -17°C

FORECAST DATA GATHERED FROM
WWW.THEWEATHERNETWORK.CA



Premier Announces Plans for Future Mines in Region

Written by: Jose DeBarros

Premier Gold announced their plans to develop new mines in the Greenstone region in a public meeting in Geraldton last Tuesday. Premier Gold says the open pit mine, which includes a mill to be built next to the pit, will create 340 direct job opportunities for the Greenstone region. The company also claimed the project will bring over \$2 billion into the local economy over the duration of the mine. The company plans on working with the Municipality of Greenstone and local training organizations to help train local residents.

Premier Gold chairman Ebe Scherkus wants the people of Greenstone to fully embrace this plan and the changes it could bring to the region.

"We need your support," said Scherkus. "This isn't going to be easy because once mine building gets underway, life as you know it will change. But at the end of the rainbow there is a pot of gold."

The potential mine development south of Geraldton could affect the future of MacLeod Townsite, the stretch of Highway#11 near Geraldton, and parts of the Kenogamisis Golf course.

Eric Lamontagne, the director of project development for Premier Gold, said he wanted to meet with the people of MacLeod Townsite before making any comment on

its future.

"A lot of people have asked. We want to have a meeting with them about the project and then we will start the discussion together. After this we will then talk publicly," Lamontagne said after the public meeting.

Scherkus was also tight-lipped about MacLeod Townsite.

"There have been questions and emails from owners saying they heard rumours or want to do renovations," Scherkus said. "It's too premature to say anything. This plan gives us the first opportunity to talk with them first."

The proposed open pit will also affect the golf course, as two holes will have to make way for the new route Highway#11 will have to take. As it stands today, Highway#11 is right at the heart of the biggest gold deposit.

Premier Gold prefers the highway be placed further north so it goes between the Hydro One substation and the golf course.

If redone in this way, Highway #11 would become a border between the open pit and mill belonging to Premier Gold and the town of Geraldton.

Over the life of the mine and the mill, Premier Gold expects to spend close to \$3 billion dollars on the Hardrock project. This includes nearly \$400 million to construct the mill and \$166 million on an eventual expansion after two years.

Also planned in the devel-

opment is a large area to place wasted rock from the open pit as well as a space to unload the tailings from the leaching process.

Environmental concerns were brought up by a number of people at the meeting. The use of a tailings location close to the south edge of Lake Kenogamisis led to the explanation the area was protected on three sides by bedrock. This means a dam only need to be built on one side to prevent any of the tailings from leaking into the lake.

Lamontagne said the open pit option was chosen over going underground for a number of reasons. Open pit mining is closer to the surface and is more economical to the company.

The public meeting was held at the Royal Canadian Legion #133 building on Main Street.

The meeting was a chance for Premier Gold to present their preliminary economic assessments on both deposits that make up the Trans-Canada property. This includes the Hardrock project in Geraldton and the Brookbank project between Jellicoe and Beardmore. The public was allowed to ask questions on the economic and environmental concerns they had on the project.

Scherkus was happy to see the public being so engaged in the meeting.

"I was impressed with the quality of the questions," Scherkus said. "I think the

mood was positive, and I think it's a good start."

For both deposits, Premier Gold said the deposits "indicate favourable economics".

Most of the presentation was spent discussing plans for the Hardrock project, to be located south of Geraldton right on the Trans-Canada Highway #11-Highway 584 intersection. Premier Gold wants to develop an open pit mine with an estimated average gold production of 200 000 ounces a year.

According to their studies, Premier Gold believes the mine has a potential to last 15 years with further underground expansion to possibly extend this estimate. If all goes to plan the Hardrock mine would start at 10 000 tonnes per day, then increase to 18 000 tonnes per day after two years.

When open pit mining is projected to stop after 15 years, the resulting pit will be 1.3 km long, 815 metres wide, and have a depth of 460 metres. Smaller pits nearby will also be dug.

Premier would like to initiate a "starter pit" just east of the highway intersection, moving westward as the pit is developed over the fifteen year period.

The final pit would also include areas that have the old mine shaft, the Interpretive Centre, and the Police Station.

If the extensive regulation process is followed and all is approved, construction

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