

Office ComplimentsFIND OUT HOW WE
CAN SERVE YOUR BUSINESS**920-4624****Business & Labour**

BUSINESS HOTLINE • GUY QUENNEVILLE

Phone: (867) 873-4031 • E-mail: business@nnsi.com • Fax: (867) 873-8507**Business Services****Office Compliments**5204-50th Ave., Suite 201
Call: 920-4624
oc@officecompliments.com

Rare earth elements site proceeds

Avalon begins study on mine infrastructure and production rate

by **Guy Quenneville**
Northern News Services

On the heels of its entry into a new phase of development, Avalon Rare Metals has stepped up efforts to spread the word about its Thor Lake rare earth elements deposit with recent visits to Yellowknife, Lutsel K'e and Hay River.

The Toronto-based junior exploration company has selected a company to conduct the pre-feasibility for the pro-

ject, located 100 km southeast of Yellowknife. The report will outline the rate, method, length and cost of producing the elements, which serve as crucial components in items as varied as iPods and air conditioners.

"The next step after we disclose the results of the pre-feasibility is to use that to access additional capital to fund the feasibility study," said president Don Bubar.

Last week, Bubar and

Bill Mercer, vice-president of exploration for the company, visited Yellowknife to give an investor presentation on Thor Lake to members of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.

They followed that up with

a talk at the Dene National Assembly, where Mercer also spoke to several community members aged 13 to 21 about the types of careers that exploration and mining bring with them.

At the assembly, Dettah

Chief Ed Sangris brought up a recurring concern about the unkept promises made by companies wanting to work on First Nations land.

"There's no doubting that companies have made a number of mistakes in the past,"

said Bubar. "But part of the reason we're here is to talk face-to-face and address those problems."

Following the assembly, Bubar and Mercer stopped

Please see **Mine**, page 20



Don Bubar, president of Avalon Rare Metals, looks over some rare earth element core samples at the company's Thor Lake deposit, located 100 km southeast of Yellowknife.



BUSINESS Briefs

with **Guy Quenneville**E-mail: business@nnsi.com

Studio on 50 Street

Yellowknife photographer Dave Brosha will be opening a gallery and studio on the floor above A Taste of Saigon on 50 Street next month.

"I'm planning to have a soft opening in the third week of August and then a grand opening in September," said Brosha. He has not settled on a name for his studio, though he currently operates as a freelancer under the name Dave Brosha Photography.

Plaza open for retailers

Retailers who will be operating in the Centre Ice Plaza – the former location of the uptown Extra Foods – are currently moving into the building to begin tenant improvements, said Spencer Decorby, project manager for Polar Developments, which owns the land.

"We're just getting down to the final strokes – hanging the light fixtures, putting the last coat of paint on things," Decorby said of the finishing touches to the interior of the mall.

Confirmed tenants for the plaza include Pierre Lepage's Nico's Market and L'Heritage Mediterranean Restaurant, as well as current tenant Family Vision Centre. Decorby said there are currently no additional tenants officially on board yet.

Co-op recycling bikes

Yk Glass Recyclers Co-operative Limited has begun repairing and selling used bikes.

The co-op recently had several customers in Yellowknife for the Yk 75 Homecoming in search of an environmentally friendly mode of transportation, said general manager Matthew Grogono.

"It's something we just sort of slipped in to," he said. "It was a pilot project, getting the word out to people to bring us their surplus bicycles. We've got a couple of bike technicians that are refurbishing them and putting them back up on the road again."

Nunavut mining not ignored

The list of guests to an upcoming Yellowknife conference on the future of the Northern economy will likely include a name that will ensure the struggling mineral exploration industry in Nunavut is not left out.

Gord McCreary, president of CEO of Baffinland Iron Mines, which is developing its Mary River iron ore deposit near Pond Inlet, recently called Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce President Patrick Doyle to express his interest.

"It's not 100 per cent confirmed yet, but it's looking like it will happen," said Doyle.

With Brendan Bell, former minister of Tourism, Industry and Investment, Doyle has formed a Northern consultancy called Northern Strategy Group. The group will host the conference in October – with the goal of forging a unified vision between government and industry on establishing job opportunities through infrastructure projects.

HOW TO REACH US.

yellowknifer
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1972

ph **867 873-4031**
fax: **867-873-8507**



You can always keep in touch with us by keeping this directory handy.

Editorial
email: editorial@nnsi.com

Advertising
email: advertising@nnsi.com

Classifieds
email: classifieds@nnsi.com

Circulation
email: circulation@nnsi.com

Check us out on the web

www.nnsi.com

Pat Phillips, project superintendent, left, and Rod Carson, project manager with Clark Builders, stand at the work site at St. Joseph School, which is undergoing substantive renovations and additions.

Guy Quenneville/NNSL photo



Clark Builders goes back to school

Company working on St. Joseph School retrofit

by Guy Quenneville
Northern News Services

Of all the projects Yellowknife construction company Clark Builders is working on this summer, only one can claim to send workers back to school.

The company is currently overseeing a major renovation and addition to St. Joseph School, where 30 to 35 subtrades workers are toiling away on a new gym and teachers' lounge. A victim of arson three years ago, the elementary school will expand to a total of 71,000 square feet.

"It's a complete gut and redo of the entire school," said Rod Carson, project manager for Clark Builders. The construction company is also working on the new Bank of Montreal outlet, fieldhouse and GNWT data centre on Old Airport road, as well as the redevelopment of what's being called the Centre Ice Plaza (the former home of the uptown Extra Foods).

The St. Joseph project is

divided into three phases.

"In Phase 1, the existing west wing (which holds a total of nine classrooms) was completely gutted and redone with all new mechanical and electrical systems, all new power, all new lights, all new finishes," said Carson.

Phase 1B encompasses the aforementioned lounge and gym, which are new additions to the school.

"We had a really rough

winter with the structural steel due to the cold. Men and machinery don't work well at -40," said Carson.

Work on that phase is expected to wrap up next month, allowing the crew to move on to Phase 2, which consists of the rest of the existing school structure.

"A lot of the guys on site have children who go to this school," said Carson, adding, "The level of co-operation from Yellowknife Catholic Schools is second to none."

Flo Campbell, principal of the school, which was built in the 1970s and currently teach-

es students from kindergarten to Grade 8, said the school began actively pushing for a retrofit six years ago.

"This school has always been packed to the rafters; what we had was an issue of overcrowding," said Campbell, adding that the school had about 630 students before construction began last summer.

The new building has allowed staff to dream up new rooms, including a multi-purpose room that could serve as both a food studies room and arts room, a separate room for band, which currently shares its music room with other students, and a new computer lab.

"We've been pretty excited," she said of all the plans.

"This school has always been packed to the rafters."

Mine plans develop

Continued from page 19

in Hay River to speak with Mayor Jean-Marc Miltenberger, K'atlodeeche First Nation Chief Roy Fabian, Hay River Chamber of Commerce president Leah Miltenberger and several local businesses, including NTCL and Midnight Petroleum, to discuss the possibility of locating the mine's process plant in Hay River. The meeting was instigated by the Hay River parties.

No similar meeting has yet been scheduled by potential stakeholders in Yellowknife, which is also a candidate for the plant, said David Connelly, a spokesperson for Avalon.

When speaking to a Yellowknife-based audience, "they always want to know what the potential impacts and benefits are for the local communities," said Bubar.

Prospects

The Thor Lake project, which will require an operational staff of 2,000 people, could begin production in 2013 or 2014, said Bubar.

Lou Covello, president of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, recently said Thor Lake could have a mine life as long as 100 years – a contention that is supported by Bubar, who added Thor Lake would not operate at an annual production rate anywhere near the Yellowknife diamond mines, which is what would allow it to sustain its operations over decades.

"With commodities like these that have smaller markets, you don't size the project based on the parameters of the resource," said Bubar, "you size it based on the size and the market for the products so you don't overwhelm the markets by building it."

The market for rare earth elements is different in that it has to be cultivated over time, he added.

"That's why I think you can say with some confidence that this thing will go for decades and who knows maybe it is 100 years because the markets will grow and there's no limit to the resource there yet," he said.

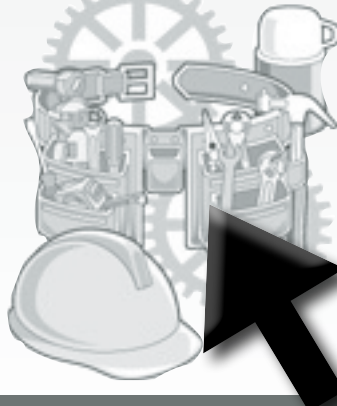


NORTHERN CONSTRUCTION

Home renovations?

www.nnsi.com has the answers!

- 🔧 Everything you need to know about the 2009 home renovation tax credit.
- 🔧 Access to the 2009 construction supplement including live links
- 🔧 Must-read monthly columns about increasing the value of your house from top to bottom
- 🔧 Information on government funding for home renovations and repairs.
- 🔧 Contractors, designers, realtors and other businesses right at your fingertips.



Expose your business to the North on nnsi.com

Contact Dwayne @ 867.766.8233 or nnsiweb@nnsi.com

nnsi.com/construction/construction.html