



# Likely Matters

"If we attend continually and promptly to the little that we can do, we shall ere long be surprised to find how little remains that we cannot do" Samuel Butler

## Effluent Discharge into Hazeltine Creek

By Erin Robinson

As most residents of the Cariboo know, Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) has requested to discharge effluent into Quesnel Lake via Hazeltine Creek. To date, the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) at Polley has been self-contained (whereby seepage water from toe drains and surrounding collection ponds is pumped back into the TSF). From there, effluent can be recycled back to the mine for such uses as milling and dust suppression. However, the mine site has been characterized as a "net precipitation site" resulting in the mine's stated need to release ~1.4 million cubic meters of effluent annually from the TSF. MPMC can continue to raise the banks of the TSF, however, they will soon need to discharge effluent from the TSF, and a permit will be needed to do so.

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has yet to grant approval for a discharge permit, and no timeline has been set. MOE's Impact Assessment Biologist is currently assessing several issues regarding the water quality guidelines. First Nation's consultation with Xat'sull and Williams Lake Indian band is presently underway. The public consultation process for the community of Likely is complete, but the public can still submit input to MOE. Karen Moores, a Senior Environmental Assessment Officer for MOE, recommends **submitting your concerns in writing**. Karen can be reached at [Karen.Moores@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.Moores@gov.bc.ca) or 400 640 Borland Street Williams Lake, V2G 4T1.

A recently completed third party review by Brian Olding and Associates (released in June 2011) assessed MPMC's plans and strategies with regards to discharging effluent into Quesnel Lake. MPMC's goal is to ensure that the "receiving environment" (water in Hazeltine) meets "water-quality guidelines set by the Ministry of Environment" **after effluent is discharged**. In other words, the **initial dilution of effluent** in Hazeltine Creek's water (not the effluent itself) is what needs to meet MOE standards.

Due to different water levels throughout the year, maximum concentrations of chemicals (sulphate, selenium, copper and cadmium) need to be calculated for minimum flow rates in Hazeltine Creek. MPMC has stated that the "discharge volume requirements are a function and are directly related to annual precipitation events and quantities. Therefore, it is anticipated that higher discharges would occur only at higher flows". As creeks have cycles of high/low water, the science of mixing toxic water with fresh water to ensure "safe" levels is experimental.

A lot of attention has been focused on Hazeltine in recent years. In 1998, a report prepared for the Environmental Assessment Office by Carmanah Research Ltd. identified Hazeltine Creek as containing "extensive spawning areas for sockeye salmon and rainbow trout". A report prepared in August 2009 for the Cariboo Regional District by Orbit Consulting discussed the "importance of Hazeltine Creek as critical fish rearing habitat". Even Brian Olding and Associates state, "the occurrence of rainbow trout and kokanee salmon rearing and spawning in lower Hazeltine Creek and the still vulnerable state of coho salmon that spawn in Hazeltine Creek merit mentioning".

Regarding how MPMC has identified potentially harmful effects to people and wildlife, Brian Olding and Associates state, "No consideration has been provided for the potential effects of bioaccumulation of toxins in wildlife and livestock which may then be consumed by humans (e.g., First Nations, hunters, etc.), potentially resulting in toxicity to humans. The discussion of proposed ongoing monitoring protocols and options for mitigation/adaptive management if the conditions within the environment are deemed unacceptable is very cursory".

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Volume 1, Issue 7

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**Current research (out of UBC) based at Mount Polley is focusing on passive treatment of toxic water. This may have the potential to clean mine polluted water so that it can be reused or released back into the environment. Mount Polley Mining Corporation are at the forefront of scientifically evaluating passive treatment of "mine-influenced" water. This technology is still in the pilot phase.**

### ??? Do You ???

- Have an advertisement you would like to see in this newsletter?
- Have a submission for Likely Matters Newsletter?
- Have a photo you would like to see on the Likely Website?  
([www.likely-bc.ca](http://www.likely-bc.ca))

If so, please email to Erin Robinson:  
[robinsoe@unbc.ca](mailto:robinsoe@unbc.ca)



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## Unequal Education



The Assembly of First Nations is calling for the end of inequities in Aboriginal education. In order to study the need for change, the federal government and the AFN have set up a three-person advisory panel to travel across Canada and examine the state of education on reserves. The panel will make recommendations for the spring federal budget to improve the state of available education. Overall schools on reserves are receiving less money than those in the rest of Canada and often have to deal with a lack of infrastructure in the community itself.

The AFN also released the one-year status report of its call to action on education, recruiting organizations across Canada to bring attention to the needs of Aboriginal education. "First Nations have set out clear targets in education and we are seeing positive signals from the federal government in terms of willingness to work with us, particularly our joint effort on K-12" said National Chief Atleo. "This path needs to lead us to a statutory guarantee for fair, equitable funding for First Nation languages, cultures, and stable and secure education systems".



## Commercial Fishery on Quesnel Lake



The Northern Shuswap Tribal Council had a demonstration commercial fishery on Quesnel Lake from September 1-5. Ten First Nation men and women from the Soda Creek, Canoe Creek and the Okanagan, collaborated with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on this program. Funding came from the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI). PICFI is a new initiative aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable and economically viable commercial fisheries, where conservation is the first priority and First Nations' aspirations to be more involved are supported.

The purpose of this initiative is to catch single species stock inland, rather than focusing all of our attention on mixed-stock marine harvesting of fish. The crew used a fishing boat with a purse seine net (see photos) to catch sockeye salmon. Unfortunately due to the low return of salmon in our river system, not many sockeye were caught this season.

For more info on PICFI visit [www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/picfi](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/picfi)

## Fracking Update- Alberta and British Columbia

The Alberta New Democratic Party have called for a special provincial investigation of controversial shale gas drilling following the release of two leaked government documents showing strong collusion between industry and government on resource development in three western provinces. A government of Alberta cabinet briefing note dated Aug. 3, 2011 says, "Shale gas environmental concerns in the media and in the public in other jurisdictions are potentially problematic for energy development and environmental management in Alberta". The note also reveals that one of Canada's most powerful lobby group, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, has approached the Alberta government about shale gas issues in order "to enhance public communication."

"It's another example of Alberta's Conservatives working behind closed doors with industry and keeping it as secret as possible," charged New Democrat MLA and environment critic Rachel Notley. She wants an independent investigation on the technology. "My biggest concern is that there is a government plan to work with industry on shale gas issues in secret and it's largely about managing public opinion. It's not about science or eliminating the risk to groundwater or the public. It's about telling people they are doing something without actually doing anything."

Here at home in BC, there are 17 long-term water licence applications submitted by natural gas companies to the provincial government in just the Horn River Basin alone, the northern-most of B.C.'s two shale gas zones currently in development (Talisman and Canbriam operate in the more southern Montney Basin). The 17 applications, within the traditional territory of the Fort Nelson First Nation, would result in gas companies gaining access to nearly 20 million cubic metres of freshwater per year in a region of the province where knowledge of water resources is limited and where industry and government are scrambling to get baseline information in place.

Coleman's promise, in response to a question from Independent MLA Bob Simpson, seemed to indicate that the government understood that how water licences were reviewed and issued was an important public policy issue. But the government's ongoing actions suggest otherwise. Talisman had been granted a licence allowing it "a maximum of 10,000 cubic metres of water a day, to a maximum of 3,650,000 cubic metres of water per year until December 31, 2031." *Information adapted from Andrew Nikiforuk and Ben Parfitt, Aug 2011, TheTyee.ca*

Gold Price September 2, 2011  
**1852.21**

### Gold Price Performance CAD

Change	Amount	%
Today	12.00	0.65%
30 Days	178.68	11.14%
6 Months	384.74	27.52%
1 Year	464.58	35.25%
5 Years	1090.96	157.72%

goldprice.org

MLA Bob Simpson  
Room 027 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

MP Dick Harris  
Room 606, Justice Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
**Remember, No postage necessary when parliament is in session.**

That's our  
fracking  
water! ☛



## An Update from Likely Fire and Rescue



- Likely Fire and Rescue had a busy August with at least 6 calls. (Three in one day.)
- A reminder for people: when we have a medivac with a helicopter it is important that people keep a safe distance from the landing/take-off site. The rotor wash can sting if you get hit with flying pebbles or other debris. We have enough to worry about with the safety of the crew and the patient. **Your cooperation by staying well away will lessen our stress.**
- I submitted our application to the CRD for funding to build an ambulance/fire truck building next to the community hall. The deadline is Sept. 30th so I won't know if we will get the funding we need until early Oct. Letters of support can be sent to the CRD Office in Williams Lake at: 180-D North 3rd Ave, WL. V2G 2A4 or via email: [mailbox@cariboord.bc.ca](mailto:mailbox@cariboord.bc.ca). Please copy your letter of support the Likely Fire Rescue at my email: [lucaset2@yahoo.ca](mailto:lucaset2@yahoo.ca) Spanish Mt. Gold has promised \$10,000 in monetary funds if the CRD approves our project.

Submitted by Elain Lucas

## Effluent Discharge into Hazeltine Creek

*continued from page 1*

In other words, the accumulation of toxins in our wildlife (and eventually in us) has not been given proper consideration. Nor has a plan been put in place that can deal with the possibility of unacceptable negative environmental impacts resulting in a different strategy needed to deal with the effluent.

Mount Polley may be sincere in its intent to mitigate the potentially harmful effects of discharging effluent, but the eventual outcomes, including costs to ecology, economy and human health remain unknown. If effluent discharge affects the water quality of Quesnel Lake, it could adversely impact: tourism, fishing, hunting, recreation and non-industrial economic development. Furthermore, locals will have to think twice before drinking, eating fish from, hunting animals around or taking children to swim in Quesnel Lake.

Mount Polley have been good neighbors to the communities of Likely and Xat'sull. Many of our friends and family work there. However, mines like everything else, have life expectancies and we need to ask ourselves what we are willing to give up over the long term for short term benefits. Hazeltine Creek is a valuable part of the ecosystem around Quesnel Lake; Quesnel Lake is one of the last pristine bodies of water. Let's ensure that those trusted with the power to make the decisions do so with everyone's best interest in mind. This potentially divisive issue within the community of Likely signifies the tension between balancing industrial economic development with our need to protect the local landscape. This is a call to action for MPMC to try and find a better solution for their waste water than to discharge it in Quesnel Lake. ☀

## Hall Developments



Expansion of the hall parking lot continues a trend for the Likely area to foster economic development. Improvements to signage, trails, and the community hall, building the museum, and operating the community forest are examples of positive retooling of our local economy. The expansion to the hall parking lot increases our chances to gain funding for an ambulance/fire truck building.

### Trivia

1. How many eyes does a honey bee have?
2. A can of zero-VOC paint is said to be free of what?
3. What cartoon character had a sidekick by the name of Boo-Boo?
4. What country is home to the cities of Lodz, Lublin, and Wroclaw?
5. What word can be put in front of the word "track", "way" and "horse" to make three other words?

Answers on bottom of page 4

Every now and then I am blessed with the extreme kindness of a stranger. I had returned from a first responder call not realizing that I had lost my wallet along the way. Ron Pearson happened to find it along the road and not only stopped to pick it up but brought it right to my door. I cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for his kindness. If you have ever lost a wallet with all of your ID, driver's license, first aid certificates, credit cards etc. you know the headache and cost involved in replacing these items. Ron, thanks just doesn't seem to be enough. I hope someday you will receive a kind deed in return.



Submitted by Elaine Lucas

## CRD Meeting in 150 Mile

The Cariboo Regional District's Solid Waste Management Committee will be taking its recommendations out to the public in a series of open house meetings. Ours will be held on **September 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 5 pm**, with a presentation scheduled at 3pm at the 150 Mile House Fire Hall. Final decisions will be made after this public input. This is your chance to be heard on solid waste!! Please try and attend this very important session.

Submitted by Joan Sorley


# Community Notices


## :) The Best Medicine ;)


- Men are attracted to women with a raspy voice. They think, "Hey, maybe she's all done yelling".
- They just found the gene for shyness. They would have found it earlier, but it was hiding behind a couple of other genes.
- A duck walks into a store and buys lip-balm. Cashier says "That will be \$1.50". The duck replies "Put it on my bill".

 **Chamber of Commerce**  
Next meeting in October

 **Bible Study**  
Wednesdays 7pm

 **Seniors Meeting**  
September 15 1:30pm Hall


 **Library**  
Mondays 3:15pm-7pm  
Wednesdays 1pm-5pm


 **Woodshop**  
TBA (for info call Karl at 2527)

**CRD Meeting- Solid Waste**  
September 24  
2-5pm in 150 Mile Fire Hall

 **Church**  
Prayer 9:30am  
Main Service 10:30am

 **QRRC**  
**Open House**  
October 1- 10am-3pm

 **Likely Fire and Rescue**  
September 21, 7pm, Hall

 **Garage Sale**  
September 24 9am-3pm

### LXCF Contact Information

*Likely Xat'sull*

**Community Forest Ltd.**  
PO Box 233, Likely BC  
V0L1N0

**Soda Creek Band**

Sally Sellars, Soda Creek  
250-989-2323

**Likely Community**

**Forest Society**

Robin Hood, Likely BC  
sherwood@thelakebc.ca

**Likely Website Contact**

Erin Robinson  
robinsoe@unbc.ca

**Published by**

Erin Robinson 790-2468  
robinsoe@unbc.ca

## Valley General Store

Valley General is now carrying locally made **Fresh is Best** salsa, tortilla chips, guacamole, and spinach dip.

**Support Local**



www.freshisbest.ca Hours Mon-Sat 9am-9pm (Sundays 10am-8pm)

**Paddle Fest 2011**  
**September 16-19**



**Volunteers Needed**

**Garage Sale -Church Basement**  
**September 24 from 9am -3pm**  
**All proceeds go to people in need in our community. Have any stuff to donate to the cause? If so, please call Emily at 2283 or drop your donations off at the bench outside the church.**



### Local Organizations

- 1) Cedar Point Park Board  
Peter McKeown- 790-2207
  - 2) Likely Fire/Rescue  
Elaine Lucas 790-2555
  - 3) Likely Cemetery Society  
Howard Fenton 790-2360
  - 4) Likely Chapel 790-2392
  - 5) Likely Community Hall  
Elaine Lucas 790-2555
  - 6) Likely Community School Assoc.  
Kim Davis 790-2320
  - 7) Likely Library  
Vicki Schill 790-2234
  - 8) Post Office 790-2322
  - 9) Likely Seniors Assoc.  
Marvin and Gail Doney 790-2018
  - 10) Likely Archery, Rod and Gun Club  
Gary Zorn, President  
250-790-2292
- Emergency Numbers**  
Emergency: 911  
Forest Fire: 1-800-952-7277  
Poison Centre: 1-800-567-8911
- Important Numbers**  
Hospital 392-4411  
RCMP 392-6211  
Inquiry BC  
1800-663-7867



**Trivia Answers from page 3-** 1. Two compound eyes and three simple ones 2. Volatile organic compounds, 3. Yogi Bear 4. Poland, 5. Race.