

Rambler's best asset is its location, says Dalton

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It too turned up interesting numbers, including a 16 metre length of core grading 1.73 per cent copper, 7.35 metres grading nearly two per cent copper, 6.5 metres grading 1.77 per cent copper and a section nearly 29 metres long grading 1.41 per cent copper.

The thick nature of the mineralization suggests it could be bulk-mined fairly affordably.

"The nice thing about that lower zone is that it is the kind of thing you can build tonnage on," said Dalton. "There's a fair bit of exploration to be done. But these are interesting things to start thinking about."

Dalton is planning at least another round of drilling to confirm the continuity of the mineral body. A key decision is whether to drill from the surface, or pump out the flooded mine, install ventilation equipment and roll down a drill to get closer to the Footwall zone.

Having the drill crew work from inside the guts of the mine may be more cost-effective. The drill wouldn't have to cut through as much rock to reach the Footwall zone.

"The other advantage of being down there is that you're down there," Dalton said. "Geologically, it's always nice to see things in that dimension. There's a lot to

be said for it. And there are other zones around this mine that are fairly hard to test from the surface with a drill. There are indications of really high-grade gold mineralization. And really the best way to go at it all is to open it all up again and go in there and see what they look like."

This past year's drilling program was mostly financed by a United Kingdom venture capital and mine development group that so far Altius hasn't named. In exchange for putting up the exploration money, the group got an exclusive six month option to negotiate an agreement on the property. All Dalton can say about the arrangement is that negotiations with the group are continuing.

But the obvious goal would be for Altius to prove Rambler is worth mining again.

Dalton acknowledged the best thing going for the project is its location near Baie Verte.

"There's existing infrastructure, you've got docks, you've got knowledgeable miners, all those things that really go a long way," Dalton said. "And probably more than anything else, we've got a deep shaft and a decline access down to the thing, which is a huge advantage. There's no doubt there is huge value in that infrastructure."

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Work resumes in earnest on Freeport's Hutton garnet property

Freeport Resources has completed the first phase of its 2004 sampling program at its Hutton garnet project in northern Labrador.

Work at Freeport's garnet-titanium beaches resumed after a five-year hiatus. The program was made possible by the successful outcome of negotiations with government and other interested parties that resulted in a redefinition of the boundaries of a proposed park reserve.

Freeport president Brenda Clark said the company's shareholders deserve thanks for their continuing patience and support during the extensive negotiations.

The 2004 fieldwork was done under the direction of Dr. Norm Catto, a highly respected geomorphologist with many years experience in beach formation and glacial processes. Catto visited the beaches as part of a larger sustainable development study. As work was done by hand, test pits were dug to a maximum depth of 1.4 metres.

About 30 sand samples were collected from the South and North Beaches to study the nature of the beach system regimes and to evaluate heavy mineral content and variations in particle size distribution. Further fieldwork this year is weather-dependent and may include split spoon sampling or ground-penetrating

radar. Processing based on UBC's Centre for Industrial Minerals Innovations recent study is also planned, along with North American and European market testing.

Eighteen samples were collected from South Beach along one-fifth of its total length of 1.8 km. Previous analyses indicated an average of 65 per cent almandine garnet, with 4.12 per cent TiO₂ assayed in a composite sample representing 860 metres of beach length.

Because of significant and uniform garnet content, South Beach is distinctly red in colour, and one of the highest grade alluvial garnet deposits known worldwide. In contrast, the larger North beach deposit is grey, because of a layer of light wind-blown sediments that form a blanket over the dunes and forebeach. Notably, previous sampling was focused along the apron of the dunes, where Catto advises heavy mineral content is typically lowest (25 weight per cent garnet previously reported).

Recent sampling in the central foreshore revealed red sands visually similar to South Beach under a thin grey veneer. Twelve samples were taken along 1.5 km. of North Beach, about two-thirds its total length of 2.2 km. Clark says the samples will be analyzed for heavy mineral content and particle size distribution.