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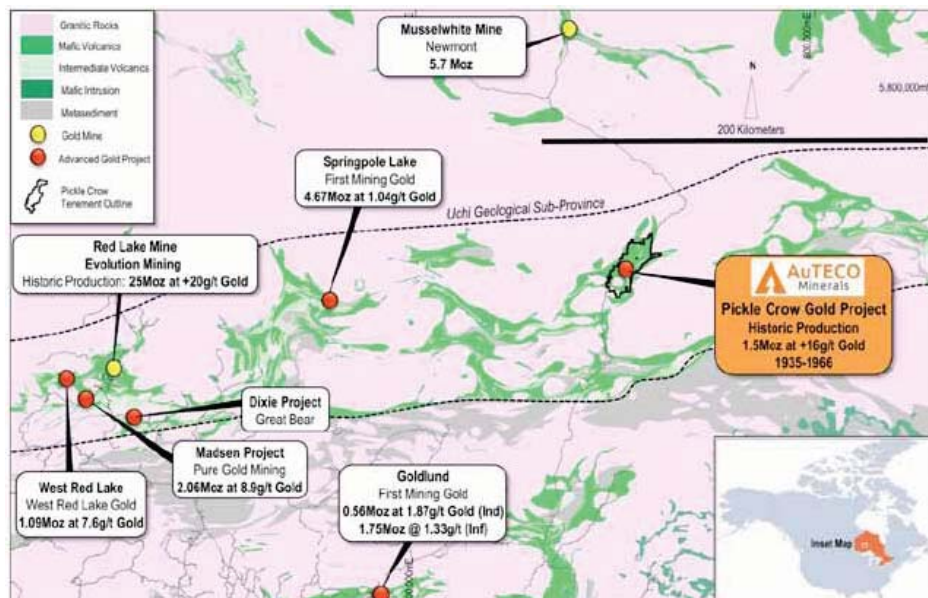
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AuTeco plans crowing start



AuTeco has chosen a prolific gold-bearing belt in Ontario to rejuvenate one of Canada's highest-grade gold mines

It might be only a few months since Ray Shorrock and the AuTeco Minerals Ltd team arrived at Pickle Crow in Ontario, nevertheless the Australian company has high expectations for one of Canada's highest-grade historical gold mines.

The company completed formal documentation with First Mining Corp to acquire up to 80% of PC Gold Inc, the outfit which owns Pickle Crow, in mid-March and has quickly outlined plans to convert the existing resource into JORC standards during the first week of April.

There is potential for a resource of about 400,000-500,000oz gold @ 7-8 g/t for AuTeco to work with.

"We have organised our drillers so we can really go after it with some low hanging fruit drilling of about 5,000m sometime in May," AuTeco executive chairman Ray Shorrock told **Paydirt**.

Shorrock said the timing of drilling would be determined by the first nations people's hunting season. In the meantime, geochem work would be the focus ahead of the planned 5-6 hole drilling programme in Q2. "We have walk-up drill targets at two very strong gold-rich veins through the surface and all those lodes are open down plunge and adjacent to the existing underground development. It reminds me of another Bellevue [Gold Ltd], which, let's face it, has been hyper successful," Shorrock said.

Shorrock was the chairman at Bellevue during the start of that company's stellar ex-

ploration run.

Repeating the Bellevue dose at AuTeco is the aim and the company has equipped itself in the best possible fashion to do so.

Former Bellevue exploration front-man Marcus Harden heads the AuTeco team in the same capacity on a permanent basis, while Steve Parsons, Mike Naylor and Sam Brooks – all key players at Bellevue – round out the board and management at AuTeco.

It is perhaps Bellevue's growing reputation in North America that turned what was shaping as a straightforward buy-in for AuTeco at Pickle Crow into something more competitive.

"I think we did reignite interest in the project," Shorrock said. "At one stage in mid-December I was getting very fearful that they were playing me off with someone else as they started getting very tough with negotiations."

How many suitors were in line to get a slice of Pickle Crow remains history and any company which missed out will now have to watch on as AuTeco pieces together what's left of an underground project which produced 1.5 moz gold @ 16 g/t.

AuTeco has reported unmined drill intersections adjacent to Pickle Crow underground mine infrastructure including: 13.1 m @ 43.28 g/t gold from 530.35m, 7.6m @ 8.23 g/t from 492.5m, 2.83 m @ 11.24 g/t from 547.67m, 4m @ 9.05 g/t from 102m, 3.9 m @ 17.39 g/t from 200m and 3.2m @ 134.26 g/t from 1139.8m.

Pickle Crow was last mined in 1966 and there has been little modern exploration undertaken since, despite the plethora of infrastructure facilities still in place and a mining lease valid until 2067.

Despite the gold market taking off a few years ago, interest in Canada's exploration and mining sectors has waned as investor attention has focused on opportunities in medical marijuana and cryptocurrencies.

Australian gold companies have benefitted by swooping on unloved projects in North America and AuTeco is looking to continue the trend of returning an asset to its past glories at Pickle Crow.

"The cannabis and bitcoin [sectors] are hurting big time. We have taken a view that the Canadian markets for gold will come back, whether it is this year or next, but that doesn't really worry us because we will be getting on with our job," Shorrock said.

"One of the things we will be doing is getting straight back into the basics. We didn't put a hole in the ground at Bellevue until we fully understood what it was we were trying to chase. The previous owners at Bellevue thought that there was nothing on the other side of that fault, and all we did was step on the other side of that fault and in the first 3-4 holes we struck it rich."

– Mark Andrews