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Book Review- Mineral Exploration & Mining Essentials

Written by Robert Stevens (2010) Available directly from the publisher at www.miningessentials.com or at the online GAC Bookstore 321pp; \$89.95 + shipping

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Sam McGee Comes to Bay Street

Sam McGee, as you may recall from the poem by Robert Service, was the archetypical late 19th century prospector, who lamentably lost his life under the northern lights in the search for Yukon gold. Mineral Exploration and Mining Essentials could not assist with the cruel elements which eventually defeated Sam, but it would certainly have helped in his quest for precious metals and

investors. Simple terminology and crisp diagrams are used to explain the basic concepts of all aspects of mining - geology, engineering and economics - for a target audience which ranges from prospectors to financiers. Each discipline is treated equally and assumes the reader knows little about anything. It is an equal-opportunity source for everybody to fill the gaps in their education.

Geoscientists can bypass the cartoons of subducting plates and the classic geologic column, and skip ahead to the actual mining process. Financiers without a scientific background, may want to spend more time on the first few chapters. The basic information required for each discipline is presented simply, clearly, and concisely. It is amply illustrated with precise, colourful diagrams, embedded within the text exactly where needed. Reference lists at the end of each chapter are short and pertinent. Occasional locations of internet sites are scattered within the text.

The chapters are organized to follow the life cycle of a mine from an exploration concept; through land, legal and financial hurdles; to the opening, production and eventual closing of the mine. One of the most illuminating charts, this one on p 4, sums the time required to take a mine through these stages. The first 2 phases alone, may require 5 to 20 years, before the mine is even under construction - a salient point often missed by impatient investors.

Perusing this book, brought to mind an article I read recently, with a different perspective on the notion that books will be replaced by computers and the internet. The author (writing online) says this may not be the case. Instead there is a trend toward the publication of much better quality books - well organized, lavishly illustrated, erudite, and handsomely bound editions that would become valued possessions. With the exception of the binding, this book

qualifies on all counts. Lets hope that a hard-cover version appears soon.

I have been told this was one of the most popular books for sale at this year's annual convention of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada. It is easy to see why. For my part, I am going to recommend it to every would-be investor who asks me what mineral stocks to purchase - a common dining out experience. In the past I have replied 'Don't' or 'Save those for your Las Vegas money'. Now, I will have a more thoughtful and optimistic suggestion - Purchase and read Mineral Exploration and Mining Essentials; then be prepared for a long haul investment with the prospect of gratifying profits at the end ... Maybe.