



## Mount Nansen: History of the Mine

The Mount Nansen Mine is a former gold and silver mine located 60 km west of the Village of Carmacks within the traditional territory of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

From 1943 to 1984, there was intermittent exploration and mining activities in the Mount Nansen area. In the mid-1960s, a mill was constructed and underground mining was done for ore from the Huestis and Webber veins. Two separate attempts at mining production were undertaken in 1968 and 1975. Neither produced sufficient amounts of gold or silver to be profitable.

In 1985, BYG Natural Resources Inc. (BYG) became the owner of the property and focussed its attention on exploring the Brown-McDade mineral vein system. In 1996, BYG began mining and milling activities at the Mount Nansen site. Under the federal *Yukon Waters Act* legislation of the time, the mine owner, BYG was required to hold a water licence for its mining operations. In 1999, BYG was unable to meet its water licence requirements and ceased operations. Immediately after production shutdown, BYG appointed a receiver to the site.

### THE FOLLOWING IS A HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF THE MOUNT NANSEN MINE.

#### 1943-1984

Intermittent exploration activity occurs in the Mount Nansen area. Two attempts at mining

identified deposits are not viable due to poor gold recoveries.

#### 1985-1988

Chevron Minerals and BYG carries out exploration and environmental baseline studies of the Mount Nansen property.

#### 1994

Exploration activities resume under BYG management, leading to a feasibility study predicting 650,000 tonnes of ore with a four-year mine life at 50,000 ounces per year and a capital investment of \$7.5M.

#### 1996

A Type A water licence is issued by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to BYG which begins mining and milling activities in October.

#### 1997-1999

During operations the mine's total ore production is 269,000 tonnes. Recovery problems limited total gold production to 35,700 ounces and the total capital investment was approximately \$14M.

The mine generates operating profits within six months but also presents serious environmental concerns including issues with the tailings dam and non-compliant water being released into the environment.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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During this period, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada water inspectors issue 11 compliance directives under provisions of the *Yukon Waters Act* to BYG to comply with the water licence or cease operations.

#### **February 1999**

BYG suspends mining and milling operations as per the directive. BYG declares voluntary receivership and appoints a receiver for its physical assets.

#### **July 1999**

The appointed receiver resigns and leaves the property.

#### **August 1999**

The Government of Canada formally declares the property abandoned and takes charge of care and maintenance at the site under Section 39 of the *Yukon Waters Act* until the *Devolution Transfer Agreement* (DTA) is implemented in 2003.

#### **2004**

The Supreme Court of Yukon appoints PricewaterhouseCoopers as the interim receiver for BYG's assets, which include the Mount Nansen mine site.

#### **2007-2008**

PricewaterhouseCoopers sells the mineral claims in the area surrounding the former Mount Nansen mine site.