

Good News on Water Quality!
The Enhanced Natural Removal (ENR) process is a big success at Colomac. Water quality targets are three years ahead of schedule! See the Water Quality factsheet for more details.



Cleaner water at Colomac.

Colomac and the Community

Partnering to Provide Training

An exciting new training program began this winter, through partnership with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), Tlicho Logistics and the Mine Training Society (MTS) of the Northwest Territories.

Through the Colomac Mine Apprenticeship Program (CMAP), successful Tlicho applicants will complete a four-year apprenticeship program through Aurora College or the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT).

The program provides a real opportunity for Aboriginal apprentices from the Tlicho Territory to gain the knowledge, skills and support required to be successful in their chosen trade. ■



Previous on-the-job training at Colomac.

Touring the Site

Working closely with community members continues to be a very important part of the Colomac Project. On August 17 and 18, 2005, a group of Tlicho Elders from Bechoko, Wha Ti, Gameti and Wekweti made an overnight visit to the site, to get an update on work, and to provide input on how to move forward with some of the remediation activities. The site tour included the Land Treatment Unit, water quality at Tailings Lake, and the barrier wall. Many good suggestions were made, including ideas about the best way to slope the old tank farm area to make it safe for wildlife.



Charlie Mantla, Alphonse Apples, and Charlie Zoe tour the Colomac Mine Site in August 2005.

The next community event will be the annual update meeting, which will take place in Bechoko in late winter 2006. ■

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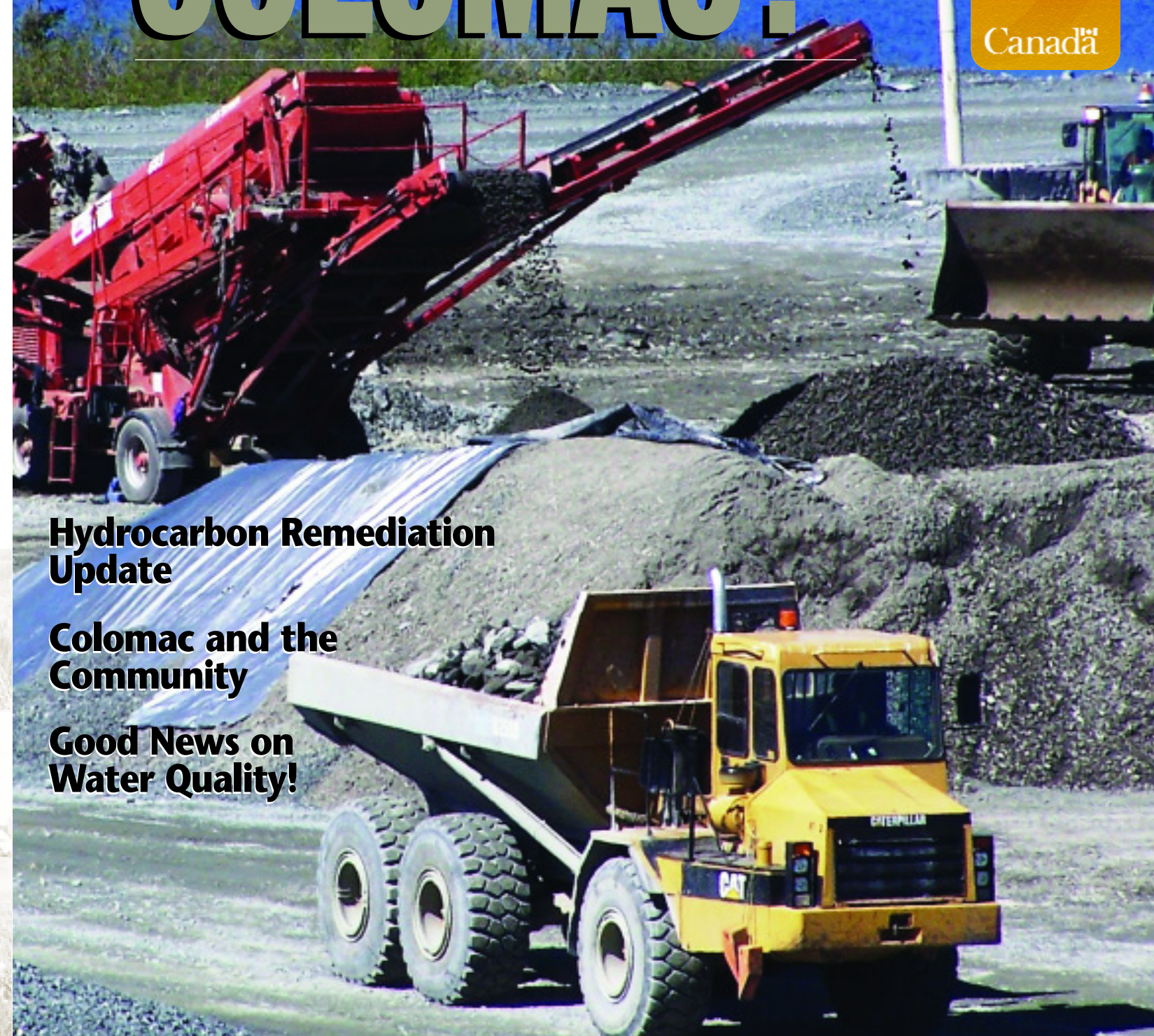
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Cette publication peut aussi être obtenue en français sous le titre: Que se passe-t-il à Colomac?

What's HAPPENING at COLOMAC?



Hydrocarbon Remediation Update

Colomac and the Community

Good News on Water Quality!

Energy Efficiency
 Small Changes Can Make a Difference
By changing energy expensive light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescents, heating only essential buildings and sealing cracks in windows and doors, Colomac will burn approximately 100,000 fewer litres of diesel fuel in 2005/06, and eliminate 280 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Aboriginal Company Receives Major Civil Works Contract

In December, 2005, Metrow Construction Limited of Hay River, NWT, was awarded a contract valued at approximately \$13.5 million, for completion of remediation work at Colomac Mine. Metrow Construction Limited is committed to 51% Aboriginal employment for the project. Work is expected to begin in the summer of 2006, and completed sometime during 2009.

Hydrocarbon Remediation Update

Hydrocarbon remediation at Colomac is guided by the Colomac Site Remediation Plan and the Hydrocarbon Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey carried out last spring identified major fracture networks in the bedrock. This data will help us locate groundwater recovery wells for more effective hydrocarbon removal.

The LTU is Up and Running!

The Land Treatment Unit (LTU) was completed in June. Over the summer, finer materials from the Tank Farm Area were placed in the LTU, along with fertilizer to help bacteria to grow in the soil and clean it up. Irrigation and air circulation lines were added to supply water and oxygen. By early August, all indications showed that the process was working as planned, and cleanup of the materials was well under way.

Sediment Sampling Program

Sediment sampling along the Steeves Lake shoreline in July revealed elevated hydrocarbon levels in the lake sediments. Further sampling is required to determine how far the contamination extends into the lake, and to help us understand if the microorganisms in the sediments are being affected by the hydrocarbons.

Other Testing

Towards the end of the summer, we sampled soil from the gasoline-impacted, powerhouse and waste oil lay-down areas. Testing of this material will help us to better understand the extent of hydrocarbon contamination outside of the Tank Farm Area. ■



Medium-sized materials too large for the LTU were placed in the Zone 2.5 Pit.



Larger boulders were used as final cover in the Tank Farm Area.

What's Coming Up?



A 25-tonne rock truck hard at work at the Colomac Mine Site.

The upcoming year is going to be a busy one for the Colomac Remediation Project, with the remediation plan in full swing. This winter, Metrow Construction will bring a large equipment fleet to Colomac over the winter road to complete the major civil works. Equipment such as D9 bull dozers, 35- and 40-tonne rock trucks and 50 tonne excavators will be brought onsite to help with remediation work throughout the year.

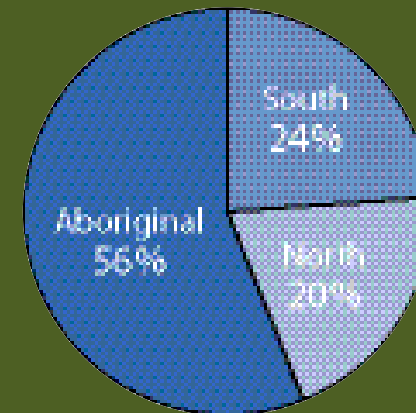
An outlet channel will be constructed to allow clean water to run into Tailings Lake

when the lake is full, in 2008. The channel will be blasted through bedrock and peat from Tailings Lake to the North Pond wetland, where any remaining contaminants will be removed.

A rock cover, up to one metre thick, will be placed on the exposed tailings in Spruce Lake to prevent animal and plant contact. To make the cover, 500,000 tonnes of rock will be moved five kilometres from one of the waste rock piles to Spruce Lake. Geofabric will be used in the wet areas to ensure that the rocks don't settle into the tailings.

Dam 1b will be constructed in behind the old dam 1a, and will use a double liner system that will freeze into the existing permafrost. The dam will be constructed from about 70,000 m³ of rock and thermosyphons will be used to make sure that the double liner is frozen to the permafrost. Most work on the dam will take place during the winter, to preserve the existing permafrost conditions. ■

Employment statistics



Remediation Schedule

2006-2007

- New dam construction
- Tailings covers
- Outlet channel construction

2007-2008

- Mill demolition
- Deconstruction of outlying roads and buildings
- Pits and quarries berm construction

2008-2009

- Camp and shop demolition
- Deconstruction of all remaining roads
- Final demobilization