The Britannia Project
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NEWS

Britannia Mill Building Rehabilitation Underway

AMEC Named as Project Manager. Major Donors Come Forward

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Vancouver BC – AMEC has been named to provide Project Management services for Britannia Mill Building Rehabilitation Project and several significant corporate donors have stepped forward to help fund what will become the centerpiece of The Britannia Project (www.britanniaproject.com).

The Mill Building, which housed the mine concentrator, is a massive building located on the mountain side overlooking Howe Sound and the community of Britannia Beach.

Since the mine closed more than 30 years ago, the building has served as an educational and tourist experience and the BC Museum of Mining has provided 1.25 million people with a tour of the building. Yet, time and weather have taken their toll; many of its 18,792 windowpanes have broken; and the building has deteriorated to the point of becoming an unfortunate eyesore to many.

Generous financial support from the mining industry combined with 1 million dollars from the Government Canada and 1 million dollars from the Government of British Columbia have made the mill building rehabilitation project possible. Core contributions include:

- Teck Cominco Ltd. -- $750,000
- Hallbauer Family Foundation -- $100,000
- Robert Dickinson, Chairman, Hunter Dickinson Inc. -- $100,000
- AMEC contributing in-kind project management services

Under the direction and expertise of AMEC, BC's largest engineering firm renowned for their global mining expertise, the building exterior will be rejuvenated to its former glory. Windows will be replaced, new cladding and paint will be applied and the surrounding site will be cleaned-up. Total cost of the building rehabilitation is estimated to be $3.5 million dollars.

Concentrator / Mill Building: a major part of the economic history of Canada.

The Concentrator, housed in the mill building, represented the economic heartbeat of the community of Britannia Beach, processing over 50 million tonnes of ore during its 50 years of operation. As long as the Mill was running the community was secure.

It is one of the last gravity fed mills left in North America and a feat of engineering and architecture at the time of its construction in 1922. The structure continues to this day to be used as an instructional tool for students learning architecture and engineering.

The high productivity rate of the Concentrator led Britannia Mines in becoming the largest source of copper in the British Commonwealth in the 1930's. This industrial legacy is the foundation of the economic development of Canada and a major reason for its National Historic Site status.

Concentrator Specs:

- Built in 18 months from 1922-1923
- Cost 1 million dollars to design and build
- Processed up to 7,250 tonnes of ore a day
- Very efficiently removed over 90% of the copper in the ore using and perfecting the Froth Floatation method of mineral separation.
- Is 209 feet wide by 313 feet deep, with the sidewalls rising at each stage from 50 feet to 70 feet. With eight stages in total the structure rises an overall 246 feet from the base of the lowest level to the top of the upper level.
- There are 1,194 windows and 18,792 panes
- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared the Mill Building a National Historical Site in 1989.

The Britannia Project:

The Britannia Project will transform an historic mining site into one of Canada's pre-eminent sustainability focused research, education and entertainment destinations. The project will celebrate the importance of natural resources to Canada's history and future and demonstrate how innovation, leadership and sustainability are providing the foundation for responsible mineral development around the world.

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