



Photo courtesy Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.

Welcome Aboard!

Nunavut is now home to a brand new mine, production begins at Mary River iron ore mine.

It takes many years to bring a mine into production, from discovery to approval to completion of construction. But eventually, there comes a day when all those efforts reach fruition and product starts leaving the mine site, en route to market.

Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. celebrated that moment on September 8, when it announced it had begun shipping iron ore from its Mary River mine — one of the world’s best undeveloped iron ore deposits — to the site of its port at Milne Inlet. The port is still under construction, so the ore itself won’t reach the markets for some months. But Baffinland says the project, located about 1,000 kilometres north of Iqaluit, is on track to start

shipping in the 2015 open-water season.

Baffinland president Tom Paddon described the start of production as “excellent news.” “We are now truly a mining company,” he said in a media statement. “We have drilled, blasted, crushed and transported final iron ore product to the port at Milne.”

Better yet, Paddon continued, the milestone was achieved over a three-year period without a single lost-time accident.

The Mary River project was discovered in 1962 by Murray Edmund Watt, a famed prospector and engineer who is also credited with discovering the historic Raglan deposit in Ungava, Quebec. After Watt’s death in 1982, the property was sold to Baffinland Iron Mines, which itself was acquired in

2011 by global miner ArcelorMittal SA and Nunavut Iron Ore Acquisition Inc., an investment firm. The project received final approval from the federal minister of Northern Affairs in December 2013.

At this point in the mine’s development, there are approximately 600 people working at the Mary River mine and Milne Port sites. In addition to jobs, Mary River will create substantial opportunities for Northern business and joint ventures with Northern companies. Social and community support is also a key element for Baffinland, which has completed an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Mary River

BY THE NUMBERS

3.5 Annual production of iron ore, in millions of tonnes, during the early phase of mining

18.5 Estimated annual production of iron ore, in millions of tonne, at full-scale production

21 Estimated life of the Mary River mine in years

600 No. of workers currently employed at the Mary River and Milne Port sites

200 No. of Inuit employees on the Mary River project

Working for You

How the mining industry helps the North — and Northerners

- **9,000:** No. of jobs that mining will create in the NWT, Nunavut and Yukon, if all projects at advanced stages go into production
- **20,000:** No. of person-years of Northern employment created by diamond mining between 1998 and 2013. More than half those jobs have gone to Aboriginal Northerners
- **No. 1:** The ranking of Northern mines on the list of top employers of Aboriginal people.
- **10 billion:** The dollar-value of spending by diamond mines with Northern business as of 2013. Just under half is with Aboriginal business.
- **768 million:** The dollar-value of spending with Nunavut-based business between 2007 and 2012 by Agnico Eagle for its Meadowbank gold mine.
- **Unlimited:** The support, both large and small, that Northern mining companies provide to communities. Here are some recent examples:
 - Bringing the dream a step closer to reality, Agnico Eagle donated \$5 million in April toward the creation of a Nunavut University
 - To help ensure students benefit from healthy eating, Baffinland sponsored a free lunch program for students at Nasivik High School in Pond Inlet, the nearest community to the mine
 - De Beers Canada raised more than \$50,000 in July at its annual Charity Classic Golf Tournament. The money will go to the Health & Wellness Foundation of Hay River and Hay River Junior Golf
 - Among its many community support initiatives, Diavik Diamond Mines added \$35,000 to the scholarship fund it runs in partnership with the Yellowknife Community Foundation. It also joined up with Crossworks Diamond Manufacturing to donate a diamond valued at \$16,000 to the foundation's annual fundraising gala
 - Dominion Diamond supported various local projects in 2013, including \$300,000 to Lynn's Place transition home and \$250,000 to Breakfast for Learning, among others.

Sounds Like a Plan

The NWT sets out specifics on how it will implement its Mineral Development Strategy

The Government of the Northwest Territories broke important ground last year when it released its much-anticipated NWT Mineral Development Strategy. In October, it put meat on the bones of that framework with the release of its first implementation plan, which covers the years 2014 and 2015.

The newly minted plan outlines key measures to support and improve the climate for mineral investment in the territory. In addition to identifying areas for support, it also sets priorities and timelines for various elements of the program.

In releasing the plan, David Ramsay, NWT minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, said: "These initiatives will set the wheels in motion to restore a positive investment climate, which is important if we are to discover new deposits and establish new mines and grow our economy."

Highlights of the implementation program include:

- **Better Geoscience:** \$655,000 in new spending during the 2014-15 fiscal year to develop and disseminate geoscience data through the NWT Geoscience Office. The spending will include hiring a new surficial geologist and a geophysicist. A further \$650,000 will be spent in fiscal 2015-16. (CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE)

Mining: It's about the people



Joanna Oolateeta
Mary River

Joanna Oolateeta has had a varied career. Over the years, she has worked as an interpreter and translator, a community health representative, a school counsellor, and a mental health and wellness counsellor.

This past summer, her career moved in yet another direction: She joined Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. as one of two staff elders employed at the Mary River mine. (The other is Nick Arnatsiaq, who works a two-week cross-shift with Joanna at the project site, about 1,000 kilometres north of Iqaluit.)

This is Joanna's first job with the mining industry, and it comes with a schedule that includes teaching classes in basic Inuktitut and giving demonstrations of traditional cultural skills. Her most important contribution, though, comes from helping people from surrounding communities adjust to living and working at Mary River.

"It's an important role," Joanna says. "For example, with young women, they need a little bit of guidance to stick with it. When they get some guidance and support, they stick with it." Joanna adds that she feels both men and

women are comfortable coming to her with their concerns.

Originally from Igloolik, Joanna now lives in Pond Inlet, the closest community to the Mary River mine. She says projects like Mary River are good for Nunavut, especially for the jobs and opportunities they create for young people. She encourages people to get involved and says they shouldn't worry about the two-week rotations. "The first few days when people come here, they can have some discomfort," Joanna says. "But it's a welcoming place. They usually feel comfortable in a short time."



Doreen Apples
Snap Lake

People who work in mining are often required to spend long periods of time at remote sites. But not every mining job is like that. Take the experience of Doreen Apples, who joined De Beers Canada in March as a community liaison officer for the Snap Lake Mine. She works at the company's Yellowknife office with a Monday-to-Friday schedule that would be familiar to many people.

Her job does require travel, but it's the kind she truly enjoys.

"Even though I live in Yellowknife, I still get the opportunity to go out to the communities and interact with the people," says Doreen, who is originally from Gamèti in the Tli Cho region north of Yellowknife.

As a community liaison officer, Doreen's job entails many responsibilities around the planning of company programs to foster De Beers' relationships with Aboriginal communities in the area near Snap Lake. "We do a lot of site

Profiles

THE FACES IN MINING

visits,” Doreen says. “We go to the communities and interact with the Aboriginal governments and Aboriginal businesses.”

In addition to work with De Beers, Doreen is an ambitious student, taking a Bachelor of Commerce degree online through Athabasca University and studying supply-chain management at Aurora College. Her educational ambitions were part of the reason she joined De Beers. “I know exactly where I want to be in five years,” she says. “I want to be a manager of procurement.”

For now, though, Doreen is excited by the job she has and the potential the mining industry offers for career growth, something she would share with others considering mining careers. “I would tell people to put their foot in the door,” Doreen says.

“Once you have your foot in the door, there’s a wealth of opportunities... a whole array of opportunities out there.”



Jamie Kataluk

Meadowbank

Mining projects may go through different owners on their journey from exploration to production. But that

doesn’t mean the faces of the people on the ground have to change. Case in point: Jamie Kataluk. He was hired as an environmental technician at Meadowbank when it was an exploration project owned by Cumberland Resources Ltd. When Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. acquired Cumberland in 2007, Jamie stayed with the project.

His decision comes as no surprise: The job was a good fit. “I like working outdoors a lot,” he says, “so it was the right field for me.”

Jamie’s interest in the environmental field goes back to the earliest days of his career. After finishing high school in his home community of Coral Harbour, he settled quickly on the idea of environmental technology. “I started looking at my options, what I wanted to do,” he says. “Environmental technology immediately gained my attention.” So he moved to Iqaluit and enrolled in Nunavut Arctic College’s environmental-technician program. After graduation, Cumberland hired him for its project, “and I took it from there,” Jamie says.

Today, Jamie’s work involves several areas of responsibility, including water sampling, site inspections and, occasionally, wildlife deterrence. Off-shift, he lives in Baker Lake and enjoys spending time with his three daughters, working around the house, and hunting. And for those interested in the mining industry as a career, he has some advice: get a college diploma. “It’s better to have a diploma to start with if people want to get into the mining sector.”



Louis Beaulieu

Mary River

Traditional wisdom in the mining industry says that, when it comes to camp life, well-fed workers are happy workers. At Baffinland Iron Mines Corp., that maxim includes the hiring of Louis Beaulieu, a Montrealer who works at the company’s Mary River mine as a pastry chef.

With 33 years experience, Louis is a veteran of the pastry business and he says he loves his latest job, although the schedule would strike most as gruelling. “I work from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m.,” Louis says. “I start with the morning pastries and then, after that, I set up the rest of the day’s pastries.” It’s a lot of work, but Louis says it’s not that different from what you’d find in a hotel or other professional kitchen. “I think a 12-hour shift in the kitchen is quite natural,” he says.

And there are definite benefits to working at Mary River. Louis says he enjoys working with the kitchen team, and getting to know people from around the Arctic and around the world. He also gets to spend more time talking to the people

who enjoy his food, which doesn’t always happen in restaurants.

There are even benefits to his three-week rotation, which gives him time to take regular vacations. That said, he acknowledges camp life isn’t for everybody. “People realize very soon at the beginning whether they will be good for camp life or not,” he says. “In summer, it’s great. But in winter, well, it’s a little hard on the morale, but with such good people, you get through it.”



Kyla Gray

Diavik

When Kyla Gray graduated from high school in Hay River, she took some time to travel. The experience gave her a greater appreciation of her own home, especially its environment.

So, Kyla enrolled in Aurora College’s Environmental and Natural Resource Technology program. The program made her want to learn more and develop further skills, and she enrolled in the University of