# The High Ice Diamond Project

The High Ice Diamond project is located northwest of the town of Elkford on the west side of the Elk River Valley, directly opposite the Fording Resources Green Hills coal mine.

A series of ultramafic diatreme breccias occurs along a northwest trend line east of the Rocky Mountain Trench. All the diatremes intrude the sedimentary sequence along the western margin of the North American continent, prior to the Jura-Cretaceous Columbian Orogeny and have been deformed, weakly metamorphosed and transported eastwards during orogenesis (Fieldwork 1986).

The project is situated within the Rocky Mountain Alkaline Belt, which consists of a province of Rocky Mountain Foreland rocks intruded by Paleozoic alkalic intrusions. Numerous diatreme intrusions



### KNOWN DIAMOND AREAS The <u>HIGH ICE</u> Project is in the Elkford Cluster Area of S-E BC

occur within the Rocky Mountain Alkaline Belt. The diatremes are clustered into two main groups. The High Ice property is located within the Cranbrook-Bull River cluster to the south. Structurally, the property lies within the Rocky Mountain fold and thrust belt, a region of southwest dipping thrust faults and associated fold developed during the Late Mesozoic Columbian orogeny. The area is underlain by Devonian to Cretaceous sediments, including marine limestones, dolostones, calcareous silt and sandstone succeeded by nonmarine shales and siltstones after the Triassic period.



The High Ice property currently hosts **seven known diatreme breccia pipes**, including the **Cross**, **Bonus and Ram 5-9 Kimberlite pipes**. The Cross kimberlite is located on the western edge of the property with the Bonus pipe immediately adjacent. The Ram 5, 6 and 6.5 pipes are located approximately 1700 metres directly east of the Cross pipe. In 2000, it was determined that the Ram 6 and 6.5 pipes were not two separate pipes but were in fact one large boomerangshaped pipe (Assessment Report 26343).

The Cross kimberlite lies north of Crossing Creek approximately 10 kilometres northwest of the community of Elkford. It is intruded into Pennsylvanian and Permian Rocky Mountain Group carbonate rocks. The kimberlite outcrop is a steep bluff some 15 metres high and 50 to 60 metres long (circa 1986). Recent work indicates the body is approximately 300 by 30 metres in plan as defined by mapping and trenching (George Cross Newsletter No.225, 1994).



The kimberlite is lithologically heterogeneous and very friable. Inclusions comprise 15 to 20 per cent of the rock volume and consist of angular fragments of country rock, rounded, dark green serpentinized xenoliths and black pyroxenite xenoliths. The rounded xenoliths range in size from a few millimetres to 6 centimetres in diameter.

Xenoliths are almost entirely serpentinized pseudomorphs of olivine and pyroxene. Talc replaces pyroxene to a limited extent and also rims and veins serpentinized grains. Olivines are completely serpentinized. Interstitial spinels are also present in minor amounts. The xenoliths may therefore be broadly classified as spinel lherzolites (Fieldwork 1986). Macrocrysts (0.5 to 5.0 millimetres) consist of completely serpentinized olivines, partially altered garnets, garnets with kelyphitic rims and phlogopites.

They may be round, oval or lath-shaped in random orientation and make up 10 to 20 per cent of the rock volume. Garnets show a moderate to high degree of alteration or dissolution in reaction with the matrix. X-ray spectra of clear and brown garnets show roughly similar compositions in the pyrope-almandine-grossular range with minor amounts of titanium and chromium (Fieldwork 1986).

In 1957, the first intrusive breccias were identified during mapping in southeastern British Columbia. Cominco identified the intrusion, known as the Cross diatreme, as a kimberlite in 1976. Follow-up work identified numerous other diatremes, but only the original Cross diatreme was truly kimberlitic in nature.

## In 1988, petrographic analysis of material from the Cross diatreme verified that it was most similar to Group 1 kimberlites found in southern Africa.

In 1994, analysis of a small bulk sample taken from the Cross kimberlite indicated G9 and G10 pyrope garnets (George Cross Newsletter No.225, 1994).



Figure 2: Small peridotite xenolith armoured with kimberlite, Cross Pipe.

A few small diamonds are reported to have been recovered from the Ram 5 and Ram 6.5 pipes, the largest weighing 0.225 cts. The phenocryst population comprises completely serpentinized olivine, together with phlogopite and spinel. Phlogopite grains vary in size and are randomly oriented, square to rectangular in shape and relatively unaltered. Reddish brown translucent spinels are disseminated in the groundmass and show magnetite reaction rims. The fine-grained groundmass is composed of serpentine and calcite with minor disseminated talc, pyrite and magnetite. Calcite is also present as medium-grained, irregular-shaped masses suggesting late-stage crystallization. Secondary pyrite forms massive rims around calcite. Bright red hematite often forms envelopes around the pyrite and dendrites penetrating calcite aggregates.

Rubidium-strontium dating of mica separates from the Cross kimberlite has yielded ages of 240 and 244 million years (Fieldwork 1986).

The Bonus pipe is located on a southeast-striking ridge approximately 100 metres east of the Cross kimberlite. The intrusive is fine-grained porphyritic with biotite/phlogopitic phenocrysts up to 1 centimetre in size and contains an abundance of dark-coloured nodules, mafic

xenoliths and country rock fragments. In outcrop, the rock displays moderately advanced but shallow, greenishyellow weathering and dark greenish-grey fresh surfaces.

**The Ram 6 diatreme was positively identified as kimberlite**. The diatreme does not form competent rock in outcrop, appearing as a highly weathered to dark green, greasy unconsolidated mud, except where resistant clasts weather out of the breccia. The diatreme dips 62 degrees and is in sharp contact with the hostrock. From east to west, the pipe transitions from kimberlite to calcite-veined kimberlite to sheared and bleached kimberlite.

In '1996 a surface bulk sampling program was completed for the Ram 5, Ram 6, and Ram 6.5 pipes. The samples totaled approximately 90 tons and consist **mostly of overburden material mixed with 5% to 10% kimberlite.** Material processed includes 35 tons from the Ram 5 pipe, 15 tons from Ram 6 pipe and 40 tons from Ram 6.5 pipe. A total of six diamonds were recovered from the processed samples. Three diamonds were found in the Ram 5 sample, three diamonds in the Ram 6.5 sample and no diamonds were recovered from the Ram 6 sample.

The diamonds recovered from the Ram 5 pipe are larger and of much better quality than those recovered from the Ram 6.5 pipe. Despite the fact that 90% of the Ram 5 pipe 35-ton bulk sample is non-kimberlitic material, diamonds weighing 0.255 ct were recovered.

The most important result of the bulk sample test on the three pipes is the recovery of diamonds. The Ice property has been proven to be diamondiferous and the property has high commercial potential.

In 1994, Consolidated Ramrod Gold Corporation undertook a stream and soil sampling program to identify additional kimberlite occurrences. The samples were analyzed by Dr. M.E. McCallum. Results of the analysis led to the discovery of four new kimberlite diatremes, including the Ram 5, Ram 6 and Ram 6.5.

One macrodiamond was recovered during this phase of work, but samples were of mixed source and the diamond could not be attributed to a specific pipe.

Ramrod Gold followed up in 1994 with a geophysical survey of the entire Elkford property. In 1996, Quest International Resources Corporation (formerly Consolidated Ramrod Gold



Corporation) collected 90 tons of surface material from trenches on Ram 5, 6 and 6.5. The samples were shipped out for milling and testing in Colorado. Results indicated Ram 6.5 had the highest concentration of kimberlite indicator minerals.

In 1998, Skeena Resources Limited optioned the property. Exploration that year consisted of rock sampling over the Bonus, Ram 5 and Ram 6 pipes. Samples from Bonus and Ram 5 returned diamonds, but samples from Ram 6 were barren. The company followed up in 1999 with a stream sediment sampling program across the entire property. Results of the sampling program were used to define additional kimberlite targets. In 2001, Skeena commenced drilling on the Bonus, Ram 5 and Ram 6 pipes. Drilling on the Bonus site had to be abandoned due to water supply issues, so instead blasting and trenching was used to obtain a bulk sample weighing 3827 kilograms.

Three diamond drill holes were drilled on the Ram 6 target and two on the Ram 5 target. **Insufficient amounts** of sample material from Ram 5 prevented further testing for diamonds.

No further work was completed until 2012, when Orange Minerals Corporation optioned the property from Rich River and completed an airborne geophysical survey of the Elkford property to locate new diamond targets and carbonatites similar to those already identified on the property.

The Ram 5 pipe has plan dimensions of 500 by 200 metres as defined by hand pitting. One 363-tonne sample was taken from near the centre of the pipe and yielded one **diamond of near gem quality approximately 2 millimetres in size.** 

A clear, gem quality diamond fragment measuring 0.65 millimetres has been found in a sample from the Ram 6.5 pipe (George Cross News Letter No. 225, 1994).

The property hosts seven separate defined diatreme diamond targets, three of which has seen all of the exploration focus to date. **The Ram 7-8-9-10-11 pipes are still relatively unexplored targets.** 

Bibliography EM EXPL 1996-A24,E4; 2001-45-53

EMPR ASS RPT <u>22983</u>, <u>23333</u>, <u>23815</u>, <u>25576</u>, \*<u>26030</u>, \*<u>26343</u>, \*<u>26883</u>, <u>33133</u>

This property is offered for sale by way of working option to purchase.

For further information please contact

Craig Lynes:

## **Rich River Exploration Ltd.**



PO BOX 183, GRINDROD BC

#### V0E-1Y0

#### Cell: 250-804-6189

Email: prospect@richriver.bc.ca

Web: www.richriver.bc.ca