

Sheet Harbour to see steady gold activity

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Gold production will come to the Sheet Harbour area at a slow and steady pace over the next four months, developers of the Dufferin Mine project said Thursday.

“We expect some specialized heavy equipment to arrive at the site in four to six weeks,” Jean-Claude Morel, vice-president of **Ressources Appalaches Ltd.** of Rimouski, said in a Halifax interview.

“Sheet Harbour residents will begin to see more new faces over the next few months. From our initial assessment of job applicants, we are expecting perhaps 15 to 20 families to move to the community as hiring continues.”

About 75 people will eventually work at the Dufferin Mine.

There are now about 20 working there and about 950 people applied for the remaining 55 jobs to be filled over the next three months.

For about five years, the developers of the Dufferin Mine have drilled and reassessed their resource. They found themselves finally on the route to gold production after receiving a required industrial approval from the provincial government Wednesday.

This development allows Ressources Appalaches to obtain US\$7.5 million from its American backer to complete the refurbishing and prepare for the relaunch of Dufferin Mine gold production.

“We expect to complete the financing process within a couple of weeks,” Morel said.

The United States lender has already approved all the documentation relating to the mine, so the developers are on target for a site commissioning in four months.

“We should be pouring gold in March or April,” Morel said.

Ressources Appalaches expects to be producing 20,000 to 25,000 ounces of gold per year by the middle of 2014.

The latest developments put the project ahead of the Moose River Gold Mines project led by **D.D.V. Gold Ltd.**, an Australia company continuing its search for investors with plans to break ground next year.

“If there was a race to see who would pour gold first, it was a friendly race,” Morel said. “If there are more gold producers in Nova Scotia, this helps us keep our costs down.”

The Dufferin Mine is a ramp-style operation that allows the miners to walk and drive to their work spots, while the D.D.V. Gold project calls for open-pit extraction.

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