

# Bilateral work group to improve AK-BC mining oversight

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

The governments of Alaska and neighboring province British Columbia initiated their first bilateral working group on trans-boundary mining and water quality concerns earlier this month.

In a statement from his office released last week, Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott expressed his appreciation for the meeting, which was one of the measures outlined in a statement of cooperation the two governments signed in October. The agreement was a next step in the process of addressing concerns among Southeast Alaskan communities about the ecological impacts of sizable Canadian mining developments upstream of shared river systems, an initiative Mallott is heading up for the state.

"We have come a long way with the help of many citizens in Alaska and British Columbia who care deeply about the quality of our water, our fisheries, and way of life, and I thank them," he was quoted as saying. "However, we know success will only be measured by how well we do going forward. I was pleased with the commitment I saw in Friday's meeting to protecting Southeast waters."

Under the statement the two parties agree to coordinate more closely on water quality monitoring, improve information exchange on Canadian mines' environmental performance, and to better make that information available for Alaskans and give them opportunity to comment on new mining projects.

The working group formed as a

part of this agreement includes members of the Alaska departments of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Fish and Game (ADFG), and Natural Resources (DNR) and British Columbian counterparts in the ministries of Environment, and Energy and Mines.

ADEC is Alaska's lead for implementing a water quality monitoring program, using federal Environmental Protection Agency funding and collaborating with regional monitors like that maintained by the Tlingit-Haida Central Council (CCTHITA). The state agency intends to incorporate data CCTHITA's Native

Lands and Resources Department has been collecting from the Stikine, Taku and Unuk rivers.

DNR reported it is developing an online, interactive map that will make it easier for the public to obtain information about mining projects across the border, and intends to have it ready for demonstration in January.

The cooperation statement calls for draft plans for the monitoring program and improved communication channels to be taken up by the bilateral working group no later than April 2017. In the media release, DNR confirmed it has been working with B.C. counterparts on a set of protocols and pro-

cedures to be proposed to the work group at its meeting next month.

Despite the step forward, concerns over the well-being of trans-boundary rivers continue by residents and user groups on both sides of the border. One large-scale open-pit site, the Red Chris copper and gold mine, began operation last year some 11 miles from the Stikine River's headwaters. Another even larger project in the Stikine watershed still under consideration is Galore Creek, which is believed to hold one of the world's largest untapped gold deposits.

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## The Way We Were

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

No papers published

## Senior Center Menu

Friday, December 30:

Surprise soup, 1/2 sandwich, salad, dessert

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations. Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## FERRY SCHEDULE

### Departures

#### Northbound

**Saturday, December 31**  
Matanuska 2:00 a.m.  
**Sunday, January 1**  
Kennicott 2:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, January 8**  
Kennicott 5:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, January 15**  
Malaspina 3:15 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Friday, December 30**  
Matanuska 8:15 a.m.  
**Monday, January 2**  
Matanuska 10:15 a.m.  
**Wednesday, January 4**  
Kennicott 5:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday, January 11**  
Kennicott 4:45 a.m.

Arrival times may vary. Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 for recorded information.

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, December 29

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

**Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation:** 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Monday, January 2

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Tuesday, January 3

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults.

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Rachel at the Sentinel to have it placed here.

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES:** **Lap Swim:** M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m., F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m., S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

### OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

**AA Meetings:** Tu. 7 p.m., Toss Off Th. 7 p.m., Smoked Fish F 8 p.m., Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

**NA Meeting:** Wednesday, We Do Recover, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

**Bridge Social:** F, 1 p.m. at th Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3440, 874-3507.

**Salvation Army Food Bank:** Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information or questions please call Major Michael Bates at 874-3753.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to the persons listed on the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship Birthday Calendar.

**Thursday, December 29:** Emily Sterner, John Feller, Jr., D.J. McConachie, Kim Wickman, Al Brock, Kenny Golding, Jennifer Davies, Gordon McCloskey, Christie Jamieson, Frank Roppel, Elodie Freeman, Michelle Gross, **Friday, December 30:** Rhonda Robinson, Nichole Kagee, Duncan Scambler, Sophia Ely, **Anniversary:** Todd and Elaine Torvend, Doug and Gail Thomas, Kelly and Dawn Davis, **Saturday, December 31:** Willie Bakeberg, Brad Angerman, Randy Easterly, Korben Young, **Anniversary:** Jerry and Judy Bakeberg, Mark and Dee Galla, **Sunday, January 1:** Craig Johnson, Staci Dilg, Ed Kuntz, Curtiz Kautz, Maka Harrison, Rich Petticrew, Carol Brady, **Monday, January 2:** Tucker Gillen, John Maxand, Jim Bailey, Justin Barker, Joan Benjamin, Kameron Stough, Earnest Harvey, Ryan Robinson, **Anniversary:** Dan and Twyla Nore, **Tuesday, January 3:** Devan Nore, Kyler Nore, Evelyn Hammock, Jacquie Dozier, Eliza Reudner, Wes Ingram, MaKenna Harding, Archie Young, **Anniversary:** Tyman and Beth Comstock, **Wednesday, January 4:** Justin Rusaw, Travis Williams, **Anniversary:** Butch and Jackie Wenderoth, **Thursday, January 5:** Logan Ritchie, Carolyn Taylor, **Anniversary:** Howard and Tonnie Fennimore, Jordan and Shawna Bunes

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.



Date	High	Low	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
December 18	41	35	Dec. 29	8:19a	3:21p	7:02h
December 19	41	35	Dec. 30	8:19a	3:22p	7:03h
December 20	41	35	Dec. 31	8:19a	3:23p	7:04h
December 21	39	32	Jan. 1	8:19a	3:23p	7:04h
December 22	35	32	Jan. 2	8:19a	3:25p	7:06h
December 23	32	24	Jan. 3	8:19a	3:26p	7:07h
December 24	26	21	Jan. 4	8:18a	3:27p	7:09h
December 25	37	21	Jan. 5	8:18a	3:29p	7:11h

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## December 29 - January 5

TIDES	AM Time	High Tides		Low Tides				
		Ft	Time	Ft	Time			
December 29	1:03	14.7	12:42	16.8	6:29	3.3	7:03	-1.5
December 30	1:38	14.9	1:15	16.7	7:02	3.2	7:35	-1.6
December 31	2:11	14.9	12:48	16.4	7:37	3.2	8:08	1.4
January 1	2:46	14.7	2:22	16.1	8:13	3.4	8:44	-1.2
January 2	3:21	14.7	3:01	15.5	8:54	3.5	9:23	-0.6
January 3	4:00	14.7	3:46	14.7	9:42	3.6	10:07	0.1
January 4	4:45	14.7	4:41	13.7	10:38	3.4	10:56	1.0
January 5	5:39	14.8	5:53	12.8	11:42	3.2	11:54	1.9

# Legislature expected to revisit alcohol reforms

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska lawmakers could take another run at revising statutes governing alcohol when the legislature convenes next month.

A Soldotna state senator, Republican Peter Micciche, is expected to again push for reforms that were partially addressed in his bill in 2015, the Juneau Empire reported.

The Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and interested parties since 2012 have

worked on new drafts of Title 4, the chapter of state statutes that regulates the manufacture, possession and sale of alcoholic beverages.

“I don’t want to say revising so much as bringing Title 4 into the new millennium,” said Bob Klein, chairman of the ABC board.

Alcohol statutes have not seen a major revision in 36 years even though the industry has undergone significant changes. Juneau-based Alaskan Brewing opened

Dec. 26, 1986, and became the first successful craft brewery in modern Alaska. There are now more than 35 across the state.

Craft distilleries also have opened and the state has seen growth in restaurants and seasonal businesses seeking alcohol licenses. Liquor-license applicants rose 20 percent in the past year, said Cynthia Franklin, director of the Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control office.

Part of the surge is from businesses seeking to get “public convenience” licenses before they’re eliminated, she said.

Micciche in 2014 introduced a bill to overhaul alcohol statutes but it never left its first committee. Micciche a year later stripped out elements that passed in a separate bill. The changes included a reduction in underage drinking penalties.

Other, more contentious changes recommended by a Title 4 review committee remain to be addressed.

Alcohol license fees, which have not changed since 1980, could be increased.

The legislature could consolidate types of licenses, allow breweries and distilleries to hold restaurant licenses, and allow liquor stores that fill “growler” jugs to give out samples.

Increased penalties for liquor license-holders who violate the

## Police report

### Monday, December 19

Disorderly Conduct.  
Parking Complaint: Owner was notified.  
Unsecured Premise: All was fine.

### Tuesday, December 20

Report of Disturbance.  
Report of Assault 4.  
Agency Assist: Power Outage.

### Wednesday, December 21

Citizen Assist: Water running.  
Traffic Complaint.

### Thursday, December 22

Report of Hit and Run. (2)

### Friday, December 23

Unsecured Premise.  
Report of Theft.  
Mason Wyatt Dingwall, 20, arrested on charges of Assault IV/DV; interfere with report of DV.

### Saturday, December 24

Citizen Assist: Unlock Vehicle.  
Report of Intoxicated Person.  
Report of Threat: Unfounded.  
Noise Complaint reported: Officer responded.

### Sunday, December 25

Nothing to Report.

There were three dog complaints and one ambulance call during this week.

law, efforts to stop bootlegging and changes to the makeup of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board also could be addressed.

“Sen. Micciche’s pretty deter-

mined to get as much of that through as possible,” said Cynthia Franklin, director of the Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office.

## New Year’s 2017

Wrangell’s cab company, liquor distributors and liquor retailers wish everyone a happy and safe New Year!

As a public service, all cab rides between

**5:00 p.m. on New Year’s Eve** and

**5:00 a.m. on New Year’s Day**

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## Mining

Continued from page 2

“It’ll be one of the largest open pit mines in the world, if it was developed. And that’s concerning,” explained Guy Archibald, mining and clean water coordinator for Inside Passage Waterkeepers, an affiliated program of Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

Currently progress on developing Galore Creek is at a standstill, but the proposal for a hydropower facility 25 miles away at More Creek — which feeds into the Iskut River, a major tributary to the Stikine — is under review by the Canadian Environmental

Assessment Agency. Slated to produce 348 gigawatt hours of power each year, Archibald noted its installation could help recharge efforts to build the nearby mine.

“Anything that makes those mines more economically feasible to me is kind of dangerous,” he commented.

While the bilateral working group had discussed the More Creek project’s environmental impact, Archibald pointed out its potential connection to future mining development was not addressed.

Fears about the impact of Canadian open-pit mining projects

on shared river salmon were stoked in August 2014 after the rupture of the tailings dam at Mount Polley, a B.C. mine operated by Red Chris owner Imperial Metals. The breach was an ecological disaster, releasing around 4.5 million cubic meters of slurry and twice that of contaminated water into the nearby Fraser River. Rehabilitation and monitoring of affected portions of the river system are ongoing, though onsite monitoring reports “the environment is recovering rapidly.” After a scaling back of production at the mine site through 2015, Imperial Metals’ production targets indicate the mine is back on track to produce 27-29 million pounds of copper for 2016.

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**NEW YEAR WEEK’S SCHEDULES**

**Friday, Dec. 30, open Noon - 3 pm**

**Monday, Jan. 2, Closed**

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