



DAVE LINDSAY, biologist with TimberWest, looks over the former Mount Washington mine site during a recent tour.

No visitors allowed at mine site

Work at the abandoned copper mine on Mount Washington has been stopped for the remainder of the current field season due to weather.

With the seal and all drainage structures completely installed, a small portion covered with till and a large portion of the till stockpiled at the site ready

to go next year the site remains an "active mine" and is a restricted site.

"Now that the seal is in place, it can't help but be effective," said John Deniseger, Section Head Environmental Quality, Ministry of Environment, at a Partner's tour Oct. 8. "The seal will run clean water right off the top while the volatile water underneath will diminish quickly leaving the run off from the site much reduced in copper levels."

"It must be stressed, however, that the site remains off limits to visitors," said Jack Minard, executive director of the Tsolum River Restoration Society. "It is even more important now that people do not access the

site until it has a good covering of snow to protect the bituminous geomembrane cover for the winter.

"We do expect that snowmobiles, skiers and snowboarders will access the site once the snow flies but we are asking that people avoid the site completely until the covering is completed next year."

Schedules for resuming work are weather-dependent, but it is assumed that work to complete the till and soil cover will resume by July 2010. Once the soil cover is in place, the site will be revegetated with grasses, sedges and small native shrubs to create an alpine meadow ecosystem.

— *Tsolum River Restoration Society*