

HARDROCK HERALD



We've all been presented challenges this year and as we leave 2020, we've all adapted to working in a different way. With an awareness of COVID-19 and safety measures in place, we continue to be available to address community relations inquiries via telephone and email.

We are excited to announce encouraging news about the Project announced in mid-December by Premier Gold and Centerra Gold regarding the GGM

ownership partnership. Shortly following that exciting news, Premier Gold and Equinox Gold jointly made an announcement regarding the acquisition of all outstanding shares of Premier. Turn to page 2 for more on both announcements and next steps in the project.

In November, GGM welcomed a new member to the Community Relations team! You'll find an introduction to Daniel Gagne on page 3.

GGM's Exploration team was actively drilling in the Geraldton area through most of the fourth quarter which can be found on page 3.

Moving into 2021, GGM will be initiating early work activities with tree clearing.

On page 4, you'll see a detailed update on planned field activities to prepare for early-works.



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Project Update

On December 15, 2020 Premier Gold Ltd. and Centerra Gold Inc. announced that an affiliate of the Orion Mine Finance Group entered into an agreement with Centerra and Premier for Orion to acquire Centerra's 50% interest in the GGM Ownership Partnership.

The acquisition was completed on January 19, 2021 and at the same time the claim related to the Partners dispute was dismissed.

In December 2020, Equinox Gold Corp. and Premier announced that the companies entered into a agreement where Equinox Gold will acquire all of the outstanding shares of Premier.

At the same time, Premier will spin-out to its shareholders shares of a newly created US-focused gold production and development company to be called i-80 Gold Corp. Equinox Gold will retain

Premier's interest in GGM. The transaction is expected to be completed in Q1 2021.

GGM is continuing to work to move the project forward by advancing engineering, continuing to receive environmental approvals, and working with our Indigenous partners towards a construction decision.

GGM is excited to work with its new owners and learn more about the opportunities and experience that they bring to the Project.

What's Coming Next

GGM will be conducting early-work activities by cutting trees from the project area starting as early as March. The tree clearing will be done using a phased approach focusing on early-works areas first. All of the work will be done according to environmental standards before the nesting season. Health and safety standards will be a high priority on the worksite.

See more on page 4 regarding the environmental tasks GGM is doing to prepare for tree clearing and a construction decision in the coming months.

Our Team

We are pleased to introduce Daniel Gagne as a new member of the GGM team!

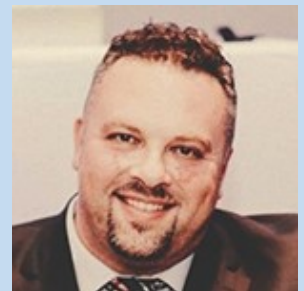
Daniel was hired in November as the Senior Manager of Community Relations and he will focus on maintaining meaningful relationships with local Indigenous communities.

Daniel is from Northern Quebec and in the past has worked across Canada with CN Rail in a

community relations capacity.

In his spare time, Daniel enjoys snowshoeing, kayaking, fishing and boxing.

Daniel looks forward to meeting local community members. Please join us in welcoming him to the area!



Exploration Update

GGM's Exploration team was actively drilling in the Geraldton area through most of the fourth quarter.

The team tested exploration targets with two drills on several of GGM's regional properties. A total of 12,000m of drilling was successfully completed by M3 Drilling, in partnership with Minodahmun Development LP.

A number of local contractors and businesses were also utilized to support of the drill program, highlighting the value of working within a full-service community.

The drilling finished up just before Christmas and the team is now hard at work finalizing the drilling results and planning exploration work for 2021.



Drill Program 2020



Drilling program in the municipality of Greenstone

Environmental Program Update

Moving into 2021, GGM's Environment Team is planning field programs to be carried out at the Hardrock Project site to prepare for tree clearing and construction activities.

Prior to tree clearing, a bird nest survey will be completed by the Environmental Technicians accompanied by a qualified biologist to identify any bald eagles, raptors or other migratory bird nests in the area being cleared. Based on the results of the survey, GGM will implement the required mitigation measures or avoidance buffers in accordance with the Project's Biodiversity Management and Monitoring Plan.

The Environment Team will also be carrying out a soil sampling program to identify any soil that may be impacted from historical activities while following the Project's Soil Management Plan.

The objective of the Soil Management Plan is to guide soil reuse by providing protocols to identify and separate soil that can be used for site reclamation and separate and manage soil and tailings that must be segregated for on or off-site disposal.

The Soil Management Plan provides the following to ensure commitments will be adhered to:

- Compliance obligations, as they relate to soil management;
- A brief site history with a focus on impacted soil;
- Protocols for the identification and classification of soil based on the characterized level of impact;
- Guidance on handling, storage and disposal of

- the soil classified within this document; and,
- Guidance on roles and responsibilities to implement the SMP.

The Soil Management Plan will help inform GGM on planning to ensure that proper management, handling and disposal of soil takes place during construction. The entire Soil Management Plan can be found on the Greenstone Gold Mines website.

The Environmental Technicians will also be participating in a comprehensive training program to hone their skills and to ensure their local communities are receiving quality environmental updates regarding the mine's construction activities. The training will be conducted on site by a third party consulting firm once COVID 19 restrictions allow for more personal interactions.



Hollow Stem Auger Drill Rig using a split-spoon method to collect soil samples

Species at Risk

The Barn Swallow was added to the Species at Risk in Ontario List as a Threatened species in May 2011. Barn swallows typically nest on man-made structures (e.g., sheds, barns, bridges,) and forage over water and other open areas.

The approved Environmental Assessment identified locations of Barn Swallow nests on man-made structures within the Project development area.

What it Looks Like

The Barn Swallow is a medium-sized songbird. Males have a glossy steel-blue back and upper wings, a rusty-red forehead and throat, a short bill and a broad blue breast band above its tawny underbelly. The male has long tail feathers which form a distinctive, deep fork and a line of white spots across the outer end of the upper tail. The female's tail feathers are shorter, the blue of her upper parts and breast band are less glossy, and her underside is paler.



Barn Swallow



GGMs Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Barn Swallow

GGM is committed to minimizing environmental effects through the implementation of mitigation measures, monitoring, and adaptive management.

The plan includes nesting structures that will be constructed to offset the removal of existing structures.

The new nesting structures are made with artificial nest cups and have been used in other parts of the country.

15 nest cups will be installed and surveyed annually for three years to document nesting activity and structure use. The number of nest cups may be adjusted based on the results of the first few years of monitoring.

Mental Health Tips for Working from Home

How do you maintain social connections at a time when public health authorities call for “social distancing” to stop the spread of illness? Here are some tips to help address isolation and loneliness some employees may experience while working from home.

Set a schedule

We are creatures of habit. Routine helps us physically and mentally prepare for our day. When working from home:

- Get ready for work. Shower. Get dressed. Eat breakfast. Keep the same routine as when heading into the office.
- “Commute” to work. If possible, have a dedicated workspace that minimizes distractions and helps reduce the blurring of lines between your work and home life.
- Schedule your time. Set regular working hours, including breaks and self-care practices between different tasks.
- Check-in regularly with your manager and colleagues.
- Respect your limits. Resist the temptation to keep working beyond your established work hours. Know, respect and share your limits with those around you to avoid burnout.

Stay connected

Physically distancing ourselves can make us feel disconnected. To help maintain social connection:

- Call / text a “work buddy.” Pair up with a peer to whom you can relate, sharing successes and challenges.
- Take a virtual coffee break. Skype, FaceTime, etc., hearing friendly voices and maintaining social connection.
- “Meet” by the water cooler. Set up a channel on a social networks for impromptu, informal workplace conversations.

Make time for self-care

Practicing self-care isn’t selfish. It is essential to maintaining positive mental health. Remember to:

- Get sufficient sleep. Aim for 7.5 to 9 hours of sleep. Maintain proper sleep hygiene for the rest you need.
- Exercise regularly. Your gym may be closed, but the outdoors are not. Get outside for a daily 20-30 minute walk.
- Eat healthily. Ensure proper, balanced nutrition throughout your work day. Stay hydrated.

For more information, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/tbs-sct/documents/covid-19/20200320-mht-eng.pdf>

Contact:

The Community Relations office serves as a point of contact for stakeholders to meet with the CR team in person to discuss the project.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, please call or email and we will promptly reply to your inquiry.

Visit our website to sign up for updates!
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