



*Photo submitted*

More than 40 students and teachers from Princeton's Vermilion Forks elementary school stand inside the 42-cubic-metre shovel of Copper Mountain Mining's Komatsu PC-8000 hydraulic excavator at its mine site near Princeton on Thursday. When in full production, the electric-powered excavator can process 68,000 tonnes of material per day. A total of 24 million tonnes of material is scheduled to be moved prior to the mill startup in May 2011. When the mine's full production of processing 35,000 tonnes of ore per day is achieved in June 2011, Copper Mountain will become B.C.'s first new mine since 1996.