

PRODUCT  
PRODUIT

GOLD (PLACER)

PROVINCE OR  
TERRITORY

PROVINCE OU  
TERRITOIRE

British Columbia

N.T.S. AREA 103 I/16  
RÉGION DU S.N.R.C.

REF. AU 2  
RÉF.

NAME OF PROPERTY  
NOM DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ

LORNE CREEK (DRY HILL)

OBJECT LOCATED  
OBJET LOCALISÉ

UNCERTAINTY  
FACTEUR D'INCERTITUDE

Lat. 54°53'15"

Long. 128°25'

Mining Division Omineca  
Division minière

District  
District

Range 5 Coast

County  
Comté

Township or Parish  
Canton ou paroisse

Lot  
Lot

Concession or Range  
Concession ou rang

Sec.  
Sect.

Tp.  
Ct.

R.  
R.

OWNER OR OPERATOR/PROPRIÉTAIRE OU EXPLOITANT

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT/DESCRIPTION DU GISEMENT

The country-rock through which the creek flows consists entirely of flat-dipping thickly-bedded sedimentary rocks, conglomerates, argillites, and quartzites of the Bowser Group, locally disturbed and intensely silicified by numerous intrusions of granitic rock.

The numerous quartz veins, all more or less mineralized, which are to be seen at almost all points of the creek from the mouth upwards are an obvious indication of the local source of the placer gold; a conclusion further confirmed by the appearance of the gold itself, which is fairly coarse and nuggety. One nugget found in 1931 by James Jones weighed 1½ oz. The placer occurs on low-lying benches of small dimensions and in the bed of the creek. Numerous remnant segments of earlier channels, of which "Dry Hill" is the most important, are to be seen at different points of the creek, at vertical heights above the creek varying up to 500 feet.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HISTORIQUE DE L'EXPLORATION ET DE LA MISE EN VALEUR

Lorne Creek flows easterly into the Skeena River some 27 miles north of Terrace. In the mouth of Lorne Creek valley is a dome shaped mountain, on the south side of which the modern creek emerges through a canyon. A buried pre-glacial channel lies north of the dome and about 2,000' north of the present creek, and is known as "Dry Hill".

Placer gold was discovered on the creek in 1883 by Harry McDame. He returned in 1884 to locate claims about a mile above the mouth of the creek for Samuel Booth, of Victoria and himself. For the next 15 years intermittent small scale operations were carried on by individual operators in the bed of the present creek.

In about 1898 the existence of a segment of buried per-glacial channel was recognized and early attempts at working the Dry Hill were encouraging. In 1902 the Dry Hill Hydraulic Mining Company, of Whatcom, Washington, began operations following the construction of a dam and flumes. The scale of the operation was increased in 1914 by the construction of a larger flume 2¼ miles in length. Intermittent operations continued into 1917 when the company closed the project. Of the apparent 2,000' of pre-glacial channel only about 350' was washed out, and this apparently not to bedrock. Good recoveries were reported at times but overall values were less than costs involved.

No further activity was reported at Dry Hill until 1923-24 when S.A. Corley, the new owner of the lease, single-handedly drove a 300' adit into the face of the hydraulic pit. In 1931 Mr. Corley optioned his lease to the Fairbanks Utility Company but only prospecting was reported. An option was given to F.A. Neville, who in the winter of 1932 sunk a shaft in the hydraulic pit close to the portal of Corley's adit but results were never reported.

Beginning in about 1900, several miles of the creek above the Dry Hill ground was worked by numerous individuals and several companies. Hardscrabble Hydraulic Gold Mines, Limited was incorporated in Vancouver in 1903. Work on the creek began in 1904 about 1 mile above the Dry Hill ground and included testing a channel remnant about 80' above Lorne creek. Some activity continued until about 1914 in adits and

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**HISTORY OF PRODUCTION/HISTORIQUE DE LA PRODUCTION**

Recorded production for the period 1884-1940 totals 4,574 ounces of placer gold.

**REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHIE**

Reports of Minister of Mines, British Columbia: 1899, p. 657; 1900, p. 790; 1901, pp. 991, 996; 1902, p. 47; 1903, p. 52; 1904, p. 101; 1905, p. 82; 1906, p. 109; 1914, p. 137; 1916, p. 92; 1930, pp. 154-159+; 1931, p. 77++; 1932, p. 86.

Placer Mining in British Columbia; Bulletin No. 1, 1933, p. 34, British Columbia Dept. of Mines.

Holland, Stuart S.; Placer Gold Production in British Columbia; Bulletin No. 28, p. 45, British Columbia Dept. of Mines, 1950.

**MAP REFERENCES/RÉFÉRENCES CARTOGRAPHIQUES**

Map 1136 A, Terrace, (Geol.), Sc. 1":4 miles - accomp. Memoir 329, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1964.

Map 103 I/16, Dorreen, (Topo.), Sc. 1:50,000.

**HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)  
HISTORIQUE DE L'EXPLORATION ET DE LA MISE EN VALEUR**

other workings. This section of creek was held in 1931-32 by James Jones, of Hazelton, who managed to make a living by washing the gravel of a low-lying bench and by recovering gold from the bed-rock of the creek.

Lorne Creek Hydraulic Mining Company, of Bellingham Washington began work in 1905 but was apparently soon discontinued.

Mr. M. Orr and associates held a lease on the main stream about one mile above the South Fork junction in 1931-32. They drove a tunnel more than 60' in rock from a canyon in the present creek to connect with a bench above the creek in the hope of sluicing the bench gravels through a flume in the tunnel, but it is not known if this was successful.

**REMARKS/REMARQUES**

Comp./Rev. By Comp./rév. par	DMacR						
Date Date	08-84						