

PRODUCT GOLD (PLACER)
PRODUIT

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY PROVINCE OU TERRITOIRE

British Columbia

N.T.S. AREA 104 I/7, 6
RÉGION DU S.N.R.C.

REF. AU 3
RÉF.

NAME OF PROPERTY WHEATON (BOULDER) CREEK
NOM DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ

OBJECT LOCATED
OBJET LOCALISÉ

UNCERTAINTY
FACTEUR D'INCERTITUDE

Mining Division Liard
Division minière

County
Comté

Lot
Lot

Sec
Sect.

Lat. 58°24'
Lat.

District
District

Township or Parish
Canton ou paroisse

Concession or Range
Concession ou rang

Tp.
Ct.

Long. 129°00'
Long.

Cassiar

R.
R.

OWNER OR OPERATOR/PROPRIÉTAIRE OU EXPLOITANT

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT/DESCRIPTION DU GISEMENT

The country rock consists of a belt of serpentine 3 miles wide, flanked by slate, argillite, limestone, and andesitic volcanics. The serpentine includes remnants of the sedimentary cover and is intruded by diorite and quartz-diorite. There are many quartz veins and stringers in the slate and schist. Some are mineralized with pyrite, but none are known to be gold bearing. On the most productive section of Wheaton Creek the creek flows over clayey gravel lying above thinly bedded clay which in turn rests on the bedrock of an interglacial channel. Gold was recovered from the top of the bedded clay and from the clayey gravel directly above the clay. The gold is erratic and does not seem to follow any well defined pay streak. Bedrock below the clay was not reached and whether or not there is gold in it is unknown. In 1938 rich pay-gravel was found at the south end of a low gravel bench. The gold was in clayey gravel within 2 to 3 feet of the sloping surface, whereas similar gravel beneath is barren. All the gold recovered so far from Alice Shea Creek has been from the shallow gravel overlying bedrock in the bottom of the creek, from the top of the bedrock, or from cracks within the bedrock.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HISTORIQUE DE L'EXPLORATION ET DE LA MISE EN VALEUR

Wheaton Creek, a northerly flowing tributary of the Turnagain River, is located about 40 miles east of the south end of Dease Lake.

Dawson reported that in 1874 prospectors found coarse gold on creeks tributary to the headwaters of the Turnagain River. In 1932 coarse gold was found by Carl Johnson and his partner on Wheaton Creek just above the falls at the mouth of the creek. Jack Wheaton bought the Johnson and Ryan leases in 1933. By 1936 Wheaton Creek had been staked for about 6 miles and a tributary, Alice Shea Creek, had been staked to its head. Workable gold-bearing gravel has been found so far only at the lower end of Wheaton Creek and on Alice Shea Creek. The gold found at these two locations is believed to have come from different sources, and probably originated in quartz veins in the slate though some may be from lodes in serpentine. Practically all of the gold from Wheaton and Alice Shea creeks is coarse and nuggetty; most of the grains are larger than wheat kernels. Most of the large nuggets have quartz adhering to them. Numerous nuggets found on Wheaton creek weighed about 2 ounces. The largest found on Alice Shea creek weighed 52 ounces; numerous others weighing up to 16 ounces have been found.

The black sand concentrate recovered from the sluice boxes consists of magnetite, small grains of a natural nickel iron alloy (awaruite), pyrite, hematite, chromite, as well as native copper nuggets several inches across. Jade boulders were found on Wheaton creek in 1938 and about 1,000 pounds of jade was flown out in 1957.

Wheaton creek was worked by six private operators and in later years by Boulder Creek Mines Ltd. The four leases on Alice Shea creek have been worked mainly by V. Shea and associates. Placer operations ceased in about 1940.

Demsey Mines Ltd. acquired 8 placer leases (Nos. 628, 660, 682, 1506-1510) in 1970.

HISTORY OF PRODUCTION/HISTORIQUE DE LA PRODUCTION

Recorded production from 1932-1941 totalled 7,756 ounces.

REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHIE

Holland, Stuart S.; Placer Gold Deposits, Wheaton (Boulder) Creek Cassiar District, Northern British Columbia; Bulletin No. 2, British Columbia Dept. of Mines, 1940.

Hanson G. and McNaughton, D.A.; Eagle-McDome Area, Cassiar District, British Columbia; Memoir 194, p. 14, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1936.

Holland, Stuart S.; Placer Gold Production of British Columbia; Bulletin No. 28, p. 61, British Columbia Dept. of Mines, 1950.

Annual Reports, Dept. of Mines, B.C.: 1933, p. 70; 1939, p. 104; 1961, p. 124.

Hedley, M.S. & Holland, Stuart S.; Reconnaissance in the Area of Turnagain and Upper Kechika Rivers; Bulletin No. 12, pp. 48, 50, British Columbia, Dept. of Mines, 1941.

Mineral Policy Sector; Corporation Files: "Demsey Mines Ltd."

MAP REFERENCES/RÉFÉRENCES CARTOGRAPHIQUES

Map 29-1962, Cry Lake, B.C., (Geol.), Sc. 1":4 miles.

Map 104 I, Cry Lake, B.C., (Topo.), Sc. 1:250,000.

REMARKS/REMARQUES

Comp./Rev. By Comp./rév. par							
Date Date	11-66	02-75					