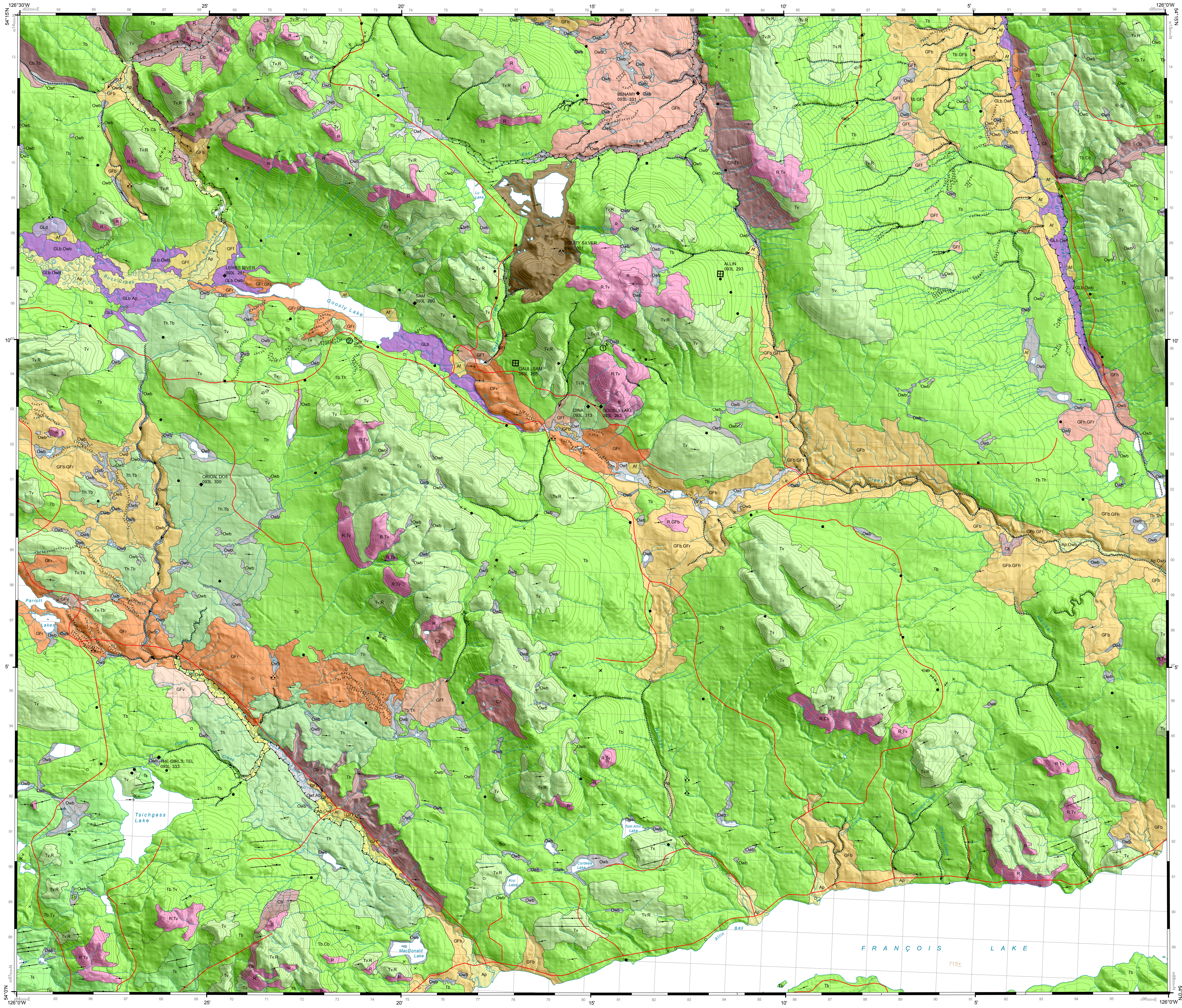
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Geoscience BC
British Columbia Geological Survey Geoscience Map 2014-02
Geoscience BC Map 2014-09-02

Surficial geology of the Colleymount map area (NTS 093L/01), British Columbia

T. Ferbey



0 1 2 4 6 8 10
Kilometres

Scale 1:50,000

North American Datum 1983
Universal Transverse Mercator Zone 9 North
Shuttle Radar Topography (SRTM) DEM, 3 arcsecond (90 m) resolution
Contour interval 20 metres

Cartography by H. Arnold

Note: Where map units are composed of multiple surficial materials, a compound map unit designator is used, separating more extensive materials from less extensive (e.g., for Tb.Th, Tb is more extensive than Th).

ANTHROPOGENIC DEPOSITS

H — ***Anthropogenic deposits:*** *geologic materials modified by human activities; original physical characteristics and surface expression have been significantly altered; related to mine activities at the past producing Equity Silver Cu-Ag-Au mine.*

QUATERNARY SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

HOLOCENE
NONGLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Organic deposits. *Formed by the accumulation of organic matter in topographic depressions or level areas that are poorly drained.*

Owb — ***Bog deposits:*** *fibric to humic organic matter; may be treeless or have sparse trees; elevated above water table.*

Owf — ***Fen deposits:*** *fibric to humic organic matter; mineral-rich water table persists seasonally at or near surface; generally covered with low shrubs; local sparse trees.*

Colluvial and mass-wasting deposits. *Poorly sorted angular gravels and sandy diamictons; commonly clast supported and can be massive to stratified; product of downslope transport of weathered bedrock and pre-existing Quaternary sediments by gravity; texture dependent on parent material.*

Cv — ***Colluvial veneer:*** *diamictons <2 m of variable thickness; overlies, and forms a discontinuous cover with bedrock or till; occurs mainly on topographic highs and steep valley sides.*

Cb — ***Colluvial blanket:*** *diamictons >2 m of roughly equal thickness; mainly occurs below bedrock highs but can also form on steep, till-covered slopes.*

Cz — ***Landslide debris:*** *diamictons >1 m thick forming hummocky accumulations on lower slopes and valley floors; may exceed 10 m thick near toes of landslides.*

Alluvial deposits. *Gravel, sand, and silt deposited by modern streams and creeks; usually stratified and, with the exception of alluvial fans, moderately to well sorted.*

Af — ***Alluvial fan:*** *gravel, sand, silt, and clay >2 m thick deposited as fan-shaped features with a convex upper surface; poorly sorted, massive to stratified with texture dependent on source materials; may contain interbedded debris flow diamictons and buried organic material; occur at the toe of slopes and where streams issue from a narrow valley onto a valley floor; potential source of aggregate.*

Ap — ***Alluvial floodplain:*** *sands and gravels >2 m thick deposited as a level or very gently sloping, planar surface; occur at surface along active and recently active channels; includes point bars, scroll bars, and oxbow lakes and inactive channels; organic rich muds can occur at surface; treeless in active areas with partial shrub or tree cover elsewhere.*

Ab — ***Alluvial blanket:*** *sands and gravels >2 m of roughly equal thickness; treeless in active areas with partial shrub or tree cover elsewhere.*

LATE WISCONSINAN
PROGLACIAL AND GLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Glaciolacustrine deposits. *Sorted and stratified sediments deposited in a glacial lake; may support trees or be sparsely vegetated with shrubs and grasses.*

GLd — ***Glaciolacustrine delta:*** *sand and gravel >2 m thick deposited at the mouth of a stream as it entered a former glacial lake; fan-shaped feature with an upper surface that is flat and horizontal to slightly inclined; situated well above modern lakes and streams; can be an aggregate source.*

GLb — ***Glaciolacustrine blanket:*** *sand, silt, and clay >2 m of roughly equal thickness; well sorted and locally incised.*

Glaciofluvial deposits. *Sands and gravels deposited by glacial meltwater; can be massive to stratified, sorted to poorly sorted; typically above pre-existing Quaternary sediments, but can also overlie bedrock; can be an aggregate source.*

GFt — ***Glaciofluvial terrace:*** *sands and gravels of variable thickness that form a planar, horizontal to gently inclined step-like surface; generally unpaired and incised by, and located above, a modern stream or abandoned meltwater course.*

GFv — ***Glaciofluvial veneer:*** *sand and gravels <2 m of variable thickness.*

GFb — ***Glaciofluvial blanket:*** *sands and gravels >2 m of roughly equal thickness.*

GFf — ***Glaciofluvial fan:*** *sands and gravels >2 m thick deposited as fan-shaped features with a convex upper surface; stratified and can be locally interbedded with diamicton; situated well above modern lakes and streams, at the lower ends of meltwater channels and the toe of slopes.*

GFh — ***Hummocky glaciofluvial:*** *sands and gravels, typically several metres thick, occurring as steep sided hills (kames) and hollows (kettles) with varied slope aspect forming irregular topography with local relief >1 m; deposited in a deglacial, ice-contact environment; steeply dipping bedding and collapse structures common.*

GFr — ***Ridged glaciofluvial:*** *sands and gravels occurring as long sinuous ridges (eskers) >2 m in height; massive to stratified; may include silts; deposited by glacial meltwater in contact with glacial ice.*

Till deposits. *Unsorted to poorly sorted diamictons deposited by a glacier; matrix and clast texture dependent on parent material and mechanism of transported and deposition; stratification and degree of consolidation also dependent on transport and depositional processes.*

Tv — ***Till veneer:*** *silt- and clay-rich diamicton <2 m of variable thickness; overconsolidated, typically massive and matrix supported; subglacially eroded, transported and deposited by active glaciers; often forms a transitional zone between thicker tills in valleys and on valley sides and bedrock above; can include discontinuous areas of colluvial veneer and bedrock; ideal sample medium for till geochemistry and mineralogical surveys.*

Tb — ***Till blanket:*** *silt- and clay-rich diamicton >2 m of roughly equal thickness; overconsolidated, typically massive and matrix supported; subglacially eroded, transported and deposited by active glaciers; bedrock exposures are rare in areas of thick till; ideal sample medium for till geochemistry and mineralogical surveys.*

Th — ***Hummocky till:*** *sand-rich diamicton, typically several metres thick, occurring as steep sided hills and hollows with varied slope aspect forming irregular topography with local relief >1 m; composed of ablation (englacial and supraglacial) tills deposited passively by melt out of stagnant ice during deglaciation; less consolidated than basal tills and have a higher percentage of gravel-sized material; may interfinger with glaciofluvial sands and gravels; overlies older glacial sediments and windows through it can expose underlying basal till; not generally sampled in till geochemical or mineralogical surveys.*

Ts — ***Streamlined till:*** *silt- and clay-rich diamictons that have been subglacially streamlined forming drumlins and flutes; streamlined landforms are typically <600 m long but can exceed 1.50 km; ideal sample medium for till geochemistry and mineralogical surveys.*

PRE-QUATERNARY

Bedrock. *Commonly exposed in high ground, including Mount Parrott and Colley, are basalts to andesites of the Buck Creek and Goosly Lake formations (Eocene); Bulkley Suite felsic to intermediate intrusives (Late Cretaceous) can host porphyry Cu-Mo mineralization in the region and are exposed on north shore of Tschigass Lake; younger syenomonzonite and gabbro belonging to the Goosly Plutonic suite (Paleocene to Eocene), and granites to granodiorite belonging to the Nanika Plutonic suite, are exposed near the Equity Silver minesite where they are host Cu-Ag-Au mineralization; additional bedrock exposures can be found in road and stream cuts and in areas mapped as till veneer.*

R — ***Bedrock:*** *bedrock outcrop; may include discontinuous areas of till or colluvial veneer.*

Spillway
Minor meltwater channel (paleocurrent unknown)
Minor meltwater channel (paleocurrent known)
Major meltwater channel
Esker ridge (flow direction unknown)
Drumlin, Drumlinoid or fluting
Crag-and-tail
Striation (flow direction known, unknown)
Small bedrock outcrop
Pit (inactive or unspecified)
Station (Ground observation)
Sample
Locality ①, ②
Road

MINERAL OCCURRENCES

Provincial MINFILE database (Labeled with name and MINFILE number)
Past Producer
Prospect
Showing

MINFILE NUMBER	NAME	STATUS	COMMODITY	DEPOSIT TYPE*
093L 001	EQUITY SILVER	Past Producer	Silver, Copper, Gold, Antimony, Arsenic	L01:Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (As-Sb)
093L 256	GAUL, SAM	Prospect	Silver, Copper, Zinc	L01:Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (As-Sb)
093L 260	SAM	Showing	Silver, Zinc	L01:Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (As-Sb), I05:Polymetallic veins Ag-Pb-Zn+/-Au
093L 261	LEWES RIVER	Showing	Titanium, Nepheline Syenite	R13:Nepheline syenite
093L 263	GOOSLY LAKE	Showing	Titanium	
093L 293	ALLIN	Prospect	Copper, Silver, Zinc, Lead, Molybdenum	L01:Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (As-Sb)
093L 313	DINA	Showing	Copper, Silver	L01:Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (As-Sb)
093L 330	ORION, DOE	Showing	Silver, Zinc	
093L 331	BENAMY	Showing	Silver	L01:Subvolcanic Cu-Ag-Au (As-Sb)
093L 333	THE GIRLS, TEL	Showing	Copper, Silver	

*See Lefebure and Ray (1995) and Lefebure and Höy (1996) for mineral deposit profile codes and definitions.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The Colleymount map area is in the Nechako Plateau, a subdivision of the Interior Plateau with flat to gently rolling topography (Figure 1, Holland, 1976). This map is an ancillary product of a study devoted to till geochemistry (Ferbey, 2011a, b), and is based on air photo interpretation and widely spaced ground observations. Previous work in the area includes soils and terrain mapping (BC Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks, 1972; Singh, 1999); Tipper (1994) included the area his study of glacial and geomorphic features of the Smithers map area (NTS 093L). To the north and northwest (NTS 093L, M and 103I, P), Clague (1984) and Levson (2002) studied Quaternary geologic and geomorphologic features. To the northeast (west half of NTS 093K), Plouffe (1996a, b) mapped surficial deposits. Mate and Levson (2000, 2001) investigated the Quaternary geology to the southeast (NTS 093F/12) and, to the southwest, Ferbey and Levson (2001a, b, 2003, 2007) studied the Quaternary geology and till geochemistry of the Huckleberry mine region, and Ferbey (2010a, b, 2014a) integrated Quaternary geology with till geochemistry (Nadina River area, NTS 093E/15).

The Colleymount map area is underlain mainly by glacial sediments. Large areas of continuous bedrock outcrop (**R**) are relatively uncommon, but exposures can be found along the shores of Francois Lake, in high ground of the Goosly Lake and Allin Creek areas, on local small-scale erosional remnants that stand above Quaternary sediments (e.g., north shore of Tsichgass Lake), and in some stream and road cuts.

Basal tills containing material that was eroded, transported, and deposited by active ice, are the predominant glacial deposit in the map area. These light brown diamictons are matrix supported (clay- to silt-rich), massive, and overconsolidated. Vertical joints and a subhorizontal fissility are locally well developed, imparting a blocky appearance (Figure 2). These basal tills form blankets (>2 m thick; **Tb**) and veneers (<2 m thick; **Tv**) that commonly overlie glacially eroded and polished bedrock. Unlike areas to the south and southwest however, streamlined terrain (drumlinized or fluted; **Ts**) is relatively uncommon (cf. Ferbey, 2014a). Basal tills are the ideal sample medium for till geochemistry surveys as they are derived from local bedrock sources (Shilts 1993; Levson, 2001). Till samples were collected for geochemical and mineralogical analyses (Ferbey, 2011b) and sample locations are included here. The basal till potential map for the study area (Ferbey, 2014b) will assist in the design of follow-up exploration projects by identifying areas where basal till is most likely to occur.

Hummocky tills (**Th**) are exposed along the Parrott Creek valley, and on high ground immediately to the north. These tills consist of passively transported englacial or supraglacial sediments that were deposited during deglaciation from stagnant ice. Relative to basal tills, these ablation tills are less consolidated, have a higher percentage of gravel-sized material and a sandier matrix, and can interfinger with glaciofluvial outwash (**GFb**) and eskers (**GFr**). Because of relatively complex transport histories and/or greater transport distances, ablation tills are not generally sampled in till geochemical or mineralogical surveys.

Glaciofluvial sands and gravels are common along and within late-glacial to deglacial drainage systems of the Colleymount map area. The Allin Creek-Buck Creek system is the largest, extending beyond the east and west map sheet borders, and was fed by north- and south-draining tributaries. The eastern part of the system consists of outwash blankets (>2 m thick; **GFb**), hummocky terrain (**GFh**) and local terraced gravels (**GFt**). A subtle modern-day drainage divide separates Buck Creek from Allin Creek; it is unknown if this divide influenced late-glacial or deglacial systems. For example, meltwater from the Allin Creek valley may have at some point flowed west toward Goosly Lake.

A significant volume of meltwater flowed through this system, as suggested by gravelly glaciofluvial ridges and hummocks east of Goosly Lake that are up to 425 m long, 225 m across, and 20 m high. At some point during deglaciation, likely after deposition of these glaciofluvial features, Buck Creek was ice-dammed downstream of the western Colleymount mapsheet border. Glaciolacustrine blankets (>2 m thick; **GLb**) mapped west and east of Goosly Lake, and a flat-topped, fan-like feature (interpreted as a glaciolacustrine delta; **GLd**), suggest that lake elevation approached 925 m asl. This is also considered the breach elevation for this flooded basin as at least part of it drained south through a spillway (south of Klo Creek) into the Parrott Creek system.

Glaciolacustrine sediments may be areally more extensive than mapped here. Southwest of the map area, in the Nadina River map sheet (NTS 093E/15), glaciolacustrine sediments are mapped at 830 m asl and maximum water elevation of the Nadina River system is thought to have been upward of 845 m asl (Ferbey, 2014a). As Nadina River feeds Francois Lake, the maximum surface elevation of Francois Lake during deglaciation may also have approached 845 m asl. Glaciolacustrine sediments could therefore have been deposited, at least locally, along Parrott Creek up to Parrott Lakes and below Mount Colley. Agricultural activities along the northern shore of Francois Lake and southwest of Mount Colley below the 845 m might indicate subjacent fine-grained sediments.

The idea of an ice dome inland of the Coast Mountains is not new (e.g., Dawson, 1891; Kerr, 1934; Fulton, 1967; Tipper, 1971a, b, 1994), although the timing has remained unclear. Building on work by Stumpf et al. (2000), Ferbey and Levson (2001a, b, 2007) found evidence of ice-flow reversal in the Huckleberry mine and Tahtsa Lake-Ootsa Lake areas during the Late Wisconsinan glacial maximum. Accordingly, during the onset of glaciation, ice flowed east toward central British Columbia from an ice divide spreading radially from accumulation centres in the Coast Mountains. Sometime during the glacial maximum however, this ice divide migrated into central British Columbia resulting in an ice-flow reversal. Glaciers then flowed west across parts of the western Nechako Plateau, over the Coast Mountains and toward the Pacific Ocean. Eastward ice flow resumed once the ice divide migrated back across the axis of the Coast Mountains, and continued until the end of the Late Wisconsinan glaciation.

Ice-flow data presented here (from Ferbey, 2011b and Ferbey et al., 2013) indicate the same sequence of ice-flow events in the Colleymount map area, supporting the idea of an ice dome moving into the interior of British Columbia during the Late Wisconsinan. Two predominant ice-flow directions are expressed in the study area, 062° to 104° and 252° to 288°. Ice-flow data from 33 unweathered bedrock exposures on the lower flanks of hillslopes indicate flow toward the east. Features indicating westward flow outcrop at both high (southeast of Equity Silver mineral occurrence at 1400 m, locality 1; Figure 3) and low (near southeast shore of Goosly Lake at 944 m, locality 2; Figure 4) elevations. The density of glacially streamlined landforms in the map area is lower than in neighbouring areas (cf. Ferbey, 2014a). Most of these landforms occur in the southwest corner of the map area and indicate flow toward the east-northeast.

During deglaciation, elevated areas became ice free while stagnant ice remained in valley bottoms (see Fulton, 1967, 1991), as suggested by eskers and hummocky terrain north of Foxy and Parrott creeks and a lack of recessional moraines. Glaciofluvial fans with eskers west of Maxan Creek likely formed at the transition between valleys occupied by ice and ice-free hills.

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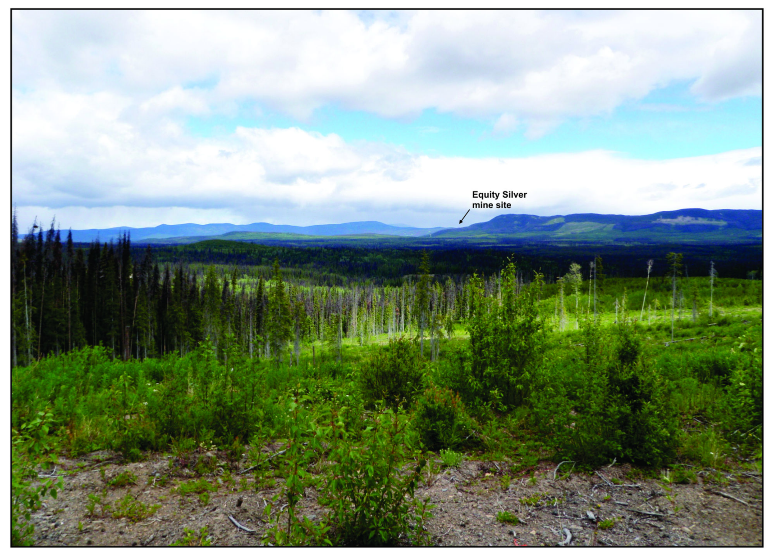


Figure 1. Subdued topography of study area. View is toward northeast with Equity Silver minsesite located in background saddle.

Figure 2. Pit dug in clayey silt to silt rich, overconsolidated diamicton, interpreted as a basal till. Well-developed vertical jointing and subhorizontal fissility give this basal till a blocky appearance. Pick for scale (65 cm).

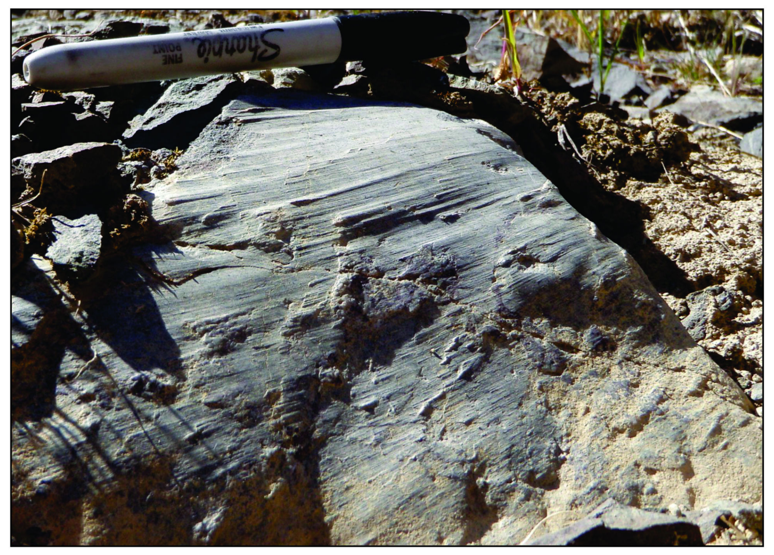
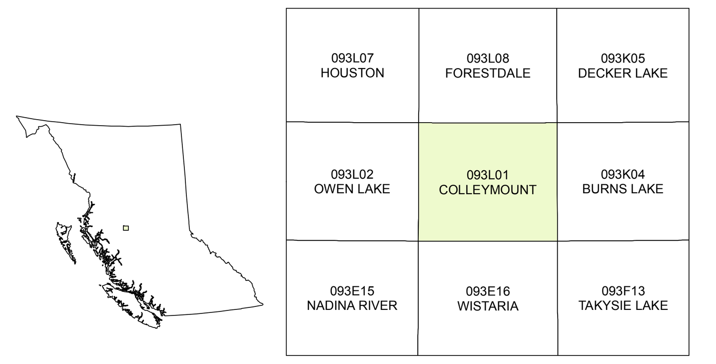


Figure 3. Rat tails on an outcrop of Goosly Lake trachyandesite. Outcrop is 3 km southeast of Equity Silver minesite, at 1400 m asl (locality 1). These rat tails indicate ice-flow toward 272°. Pen for scale (14 cm).

Figure 4. Rat tail on an outcrop of Kasalka Group andesite (Late Cretaceous). Outcrop is near the southeast shore of Goosly Lake at 944 m asl (locality 2). Orientation of this rat tail indicates ice-flow toward 252°. Pen for scale (14 cm).



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