



CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

FURTHER POTENTIAL CARBONATITE LOCALITIES
(83D/6E)

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Carbonatite-like rocks were examined at Paradise Lake, at Howard Creek, at the Verity showing (MI 83D-5), and at Gum Creek, all northeast of Blue River and accessible by truck or helicopter.

Paradise Lake, accessible by helicopter, is located east of Lempriere at an elevation of 2 132 metres. Outcrops of carbonate rocks occur within high-grade metasedimentary rocks on the north face of the mountain immediately south of Paradise Lake (elevation 2 936 metres), along the ridge to the west of this 2 936-metre peak, and on both sides of the ridge. The largest exposure measuring over 100 metres along the dip occurs on a dip slope close to the col of this west ridge.

Howard Creek flows easterly into Canoe River. An outcrop of carbonatite-like rock was examined in the northwest region of the headwaters of Howard Creek on a south-facing slope. The locality is well above timberline, at around 2 300 metres elevation, and is visible from a helicopter. Other carbonates have been reported near a glacier in this area but these were not observed.

The Verity showing, which was originally staked for its vermiculite content, has received considerable attention and a stratigraphic thickness of 50 metres of carbonate rock has been reported. In the summer months, Verity is accessible by truck.

Carbonatite-like rocks have also been uncovered along the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority right-of-way just south of Gum Creek which flows west into the North Thompson River, north of Blue River. This showing is also accessible by truck in the summer season.

At higher elevations, as might be expected, no residually weathered red soils are formed. Where residual soils are present, Three Valley Gap, Mud Lake, Gum Creek, and, to a lesser extent, at the Verity showing, they are often colour banded. The bands are distinct and 1 to 4 centimetres wide in shades of reddish brown, green, and buff. This weathering phenomenon suggests a form of banding in the fresh carbonatite but none is evident either in core or in outcrop.

Attempts will be made in the near future to make element comparisons from chemical analyses of these carbonate rocks to obtain zircon age dates and to try to correlate some of the units that crop out above timberline. If one or all of these carbonates are true carbonatites, the mode of emplacement will be studied. For example, at Three Valley Gap evidence suggests that carbonatite has intersected early fenite while at Verity fenite appears to cut carbonatite.

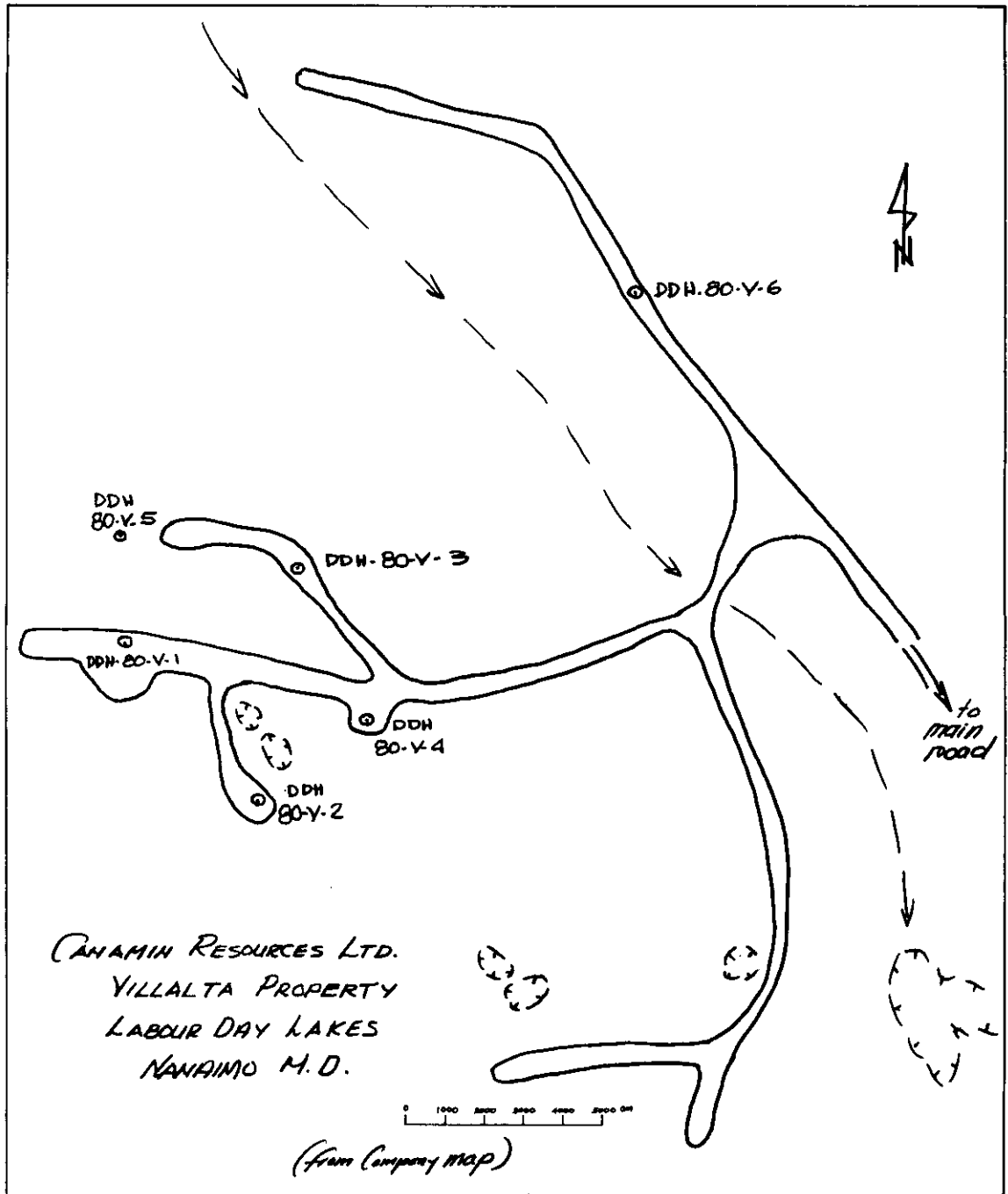


Figure 36. Villalta property (MI 92F-384).