

NAME OF PROPERTY
NOM DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ

IRON HILL

OBJECT LOCATED
OBJET LOCALISÉ

UNCERTAINTY
FACTEUR D'INCERTITUDE

Mining Division Division minière	Nanaimo	District District	Comox
County Comté		Township or Parish Canton ou paroisse	
Lot Lot		Concession or Range Concession ou rang	
Sec Sect.	Tp. Ct.	R. R.	

Lat. 49°51'45"
Long. 125°32'40"

OWNER OR OPERATOR/PROPRIÉTAIRE OU EXPLOITANT

Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Co. subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT/DESCRIPTION DU GISEMENT

The formation consists of greenstone overlain by limestone, all of probable Triassic age. Granodiorite outcrops on the lower slopes of the east end of Iron Hill and presumably extends under all the mine area. At the mine the greenstone is distributed in a roughly oval ring. Within this ring is an inner ring of "skarn" in which the greenstone has been to a great extent replaced by garnet and magnetite. Parts of this inner ring contained a sufficiently high proportion of magnetite to constitute ore. Within the replacement ring, most of the rock is grey crystalline limestone. The limestone appears to be folded into an overturned syncline, the axial plane dipping northeastward between 45 and 80 degrees; two apparent reversals of plunge are probably due to cross-folding. Numerous dykes cut the greenstone in the mine area, and one sill and one dyke intrude the limestone. The contact of "skarn" with unreplaced greenstone is sharply defined but irregular; the contact of "skarn" with the limestone is smooth and well defined and is parallel to the limestone bedding wherever it could be determined. The replacement was largely confined to the greenstone, probably because it was intensely shattered

p.t.o.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
HISTORIQUE DE L'EXPLORATION ET DE LA MISE EN VALEUR

The property is located on Iron Hill, a ridge trending southwestward between Sihun and Mine Creeks, about one mile south of Upper Quinsam Lake. This area lies within the limits of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Land Grant.

Magnetite outcropping over a considerable area at the east end of the top of Iron Hill was discovered about 1901. The property was acquired under lease by ex-Senator Jones and associates of Seattle, who, prior to 1914, drove several tunnels and prospected the surface by open cuts. The Quinsam Lake Iron Syndicate held the property in 1916 and apparently extended some of the underground workings. Thereafter little was done until 1948 when Privateer Mine Ltd. and associated interests formed the Coast Iron Co. Ltd. From December 1948 to March 1949 diamond drilling and quarrying was done in two adjacent quarries and a small amount of ore shipped.

The Argonaut Mining Co. Ltd. optioned the property in October 1949 and began a program of diamond drilling. A magnetic concentrator was built and the deposit was prepared for open pit mining; production began late in 1951. In 1955 the Argonaut Mining Co. became Argonaut Mine Division of Utah Co. of the Americas. The economic limit of stripping was reached and the operation closed in December 1956. Clean up operations were carried out from April to July 1957.

Leviage Mineral Corp (112 42/89)

HISTORY OF PRODUCTION/HISTORIQUE DE LA PRODUCTION

During 1948-49, 4,885 tons of ore were shipped direct to the smelter at Wenatchee, Washington.

From 1951 to 1957, 4,027,337 tons of ore were mined. From this ore 2,193,917 tons of concentrates were shipped.

REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHIE

Young, G.A. & Uglow, W.L.; The Iron Ores of Canada, Volume 1, British Columbia and Yukon; Economic Geology Series No. 3, pp. 73-77, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1926.

Annual Reports, Dept. of Mines, B.C.: 1901, p. 1119; 1916, p. 296; 1918, p. 270; 1948, p. 158; 1949, p. 226; 1951, p. 198; 1952, pp. 221-228; 1953, p. 170; 1954, p. 166; 1955, p. 78; 1956, p. 119; 1957, p. 69.

Mineral Policy Sector; Corporation Files: "Quinsam Lake"; "Coast Iron Co. Ltd."; "Argonaut Mining Co."

Sangster, D.F.; The Contact Metasomatic Magnetite Deposits of Southwestern British Columbia; Bulletin 172, p. 54, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1969.

MAP REFERENCES/RÉFÉRENCES CARTOGRAPHIQUES

Map 196 A, Vancouver Sheet, B.C., (Geol.), Sc. 1":8 miles.

Map 92 F/13, (East Half), Upper Campbell, B.C., (Topo.), Sc. 1:50,000.

Map 2-1965, Comox Lake Area, B.C., (Geol.), Sc. 1":2 miles.

Fig. 8, Geology of the Iron Hill deposit, Sc. 1":100 feet - accomp. Bulletin 172.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT/DESCRIPTION DU GISEMENT (continued)

but the proximity of the ore to limestone suggests that ore formation and replacement were aided by the presence of limestone. The mineralized ring consists chiefly of garnet and magnetite in grains 1/8 to 1/4 inch across, but near some contacts are much smaller. Garnet rich "skarn" is in many places veined by magnetite. Other minerals present in small amounts are epidote, calcite, quartz, pyrite, hematite and chalcopryite.

REMARKS/REMARQUES

Comp./Rev. By
Comp./rév. par

Date

11-65