



For an overview of the surficial geology of the Quatsino area please refer to the report entitled "Preliminary Results of Drift Exploration Studies in the Quatsino (92L12) and Mount Milligan (93N1E, 93)/4W Areas" by D. E. Kerr and S. J. Sibbick in Geological Fieldwork 1991, B. C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Paper 1992-1. Geology based on air photo interpretation followed by ground-truthing. Fieldwork completed in 1991.

<b>MAP UNIT LETTER NOTATION</b>	
<b>SIMPLE TERRAIN UNIT SYSTEM</b>	
surficial material	_____
texture	_____
	surface expression
	<b>gPi</b>
<b>COMPOSITE UNITS</b>	
Cv	The component (Cv) above the symbol stratigraphically overrides the one below (Mb)
Mb	
MarR	The component (Mb) in front of the symbol is more extensive than the one that follows (Pi)

SURFACE EXPRESSION	
b	blanket (> 1 metre)
f	fan
h	hummocky
t	terraced
v	veneer (< 1 metre)

TEXTURES	
c	clay
s	silt
s	sand
g	gravel
b	boulder
d	detritus

SURFICIAL MATERIALS		
A	anthropogenic	Man-made or man-modified materials.
C	colluvial	Diamictite with variable structure and texture; includes talus, avalanche, landslides, debris flow and other mass wasting products and weathered bedrock.
E	eolian	Fine sand and silt transported by wind; includes dune and loess deposits.
F	fluvial	Gravel, sand or silt deposited by streams and rivers; includes floodplain, river terrace, delta and alluvial fan sediments.
gG	glaciofluvial	Fluvial sediment deposited in association with glacier ice; generally consists of gravel and sand; includes kettle outwash, hummock terraces and eskers.
I	ice	Permanent snow and ice; glaciers and icefields.
L	lacustrine	Sediment deposited in lakes or around lake shorelines; generally consists of sand, silt and clay; includes beach and lacustrine terrace deposits.
LG	glaciolacustrine	Lacustrine sediment deposited in association with glacier ice; similar to lacustrine deposits but displays features such as slump structures, ice-rafterd stumps and kettles.
M	morainal	Diamictite (TILL) deposited directly by glaciers; generally consists of well-compacted material with variable structure and texture; includes moraine, till plain and drumlin features.
O	organic	Material resulting from the accumulation and decay of vegetative matter; generally consists of peat; includes bogs, swamps and marshes.
R	bedrock	Outcrop and rock covered by less than 10 cm of unconsolidated material.
U	undifferentiated	Material of variable texture and origin.
V	volcanic	Unconsolidated pyroclastic sediments including volcanic ash, lapilli and cinder ejecta.
W	marine	Sediment deposited in marine waters or along coastlines; generally consists of clay, silt, sand or gravel; includes beaches and deeper water deposits.
wG	glaciomarine	Sediment deposited in a marine environment in close proximity to glacier ice; generally poorly sorted and stratified or massive; includes glaciomarine deltas and deeper water deposits.

-SITE SYMBOLS	
min, crag and tail	
ee, grooves (ice flow often known; unknown)	
ings	
aine ridge (major, minor)	
er (flow direction known; unknown)	
water channel (major, minor)	
arpment	
vee	
ster flow	
andline	
stalids (headwall scar)	

## **QUATERNARY GEOLOGY NOTES**

The Quatsino map area was last glaciated during the Late Wisconsinan (Fraser glaciation) between  $20\ 600 \pm 330$  years B.P. (GSC-2505) and  $12\ 200 \pm 180$  years B.P. (GSC-24). Howes (1983) reported evidence for two glaciations based on the presence of two distinct lobe in the north-central regions of Vancouver Island. However, mapping during 1991 provided evidence for only one glaciation within the study area. Directional ice-flow indicators (striae, grooves, crag and tail features) suggest that the regional ice direction during the last glaciation was generally toward the northwest, probably originating from the Coast Mountains and crossing Queen Charlotte Strait. Fluted moraine landforms south of the Pemberton Hills parallel the glacial trend to the northwest. There is, however, considerable variation in glacier flow direction on a local scale, notably south of Holberg Inlet. During the early stages of the glacial advance, individual tongues of ice followed preexisting valleys, some ice lobes flowing to the west (east of Koprino Harbour), southwest (east of Winter Harbour) and south (Koprino River valley). There is no evidence for any local ice sources in the Quatsino area.

Field mapping shows that glaciomarine ( $W^G$ ) and marine ( $W$ ) sediments along the coastal lowlands of Holberg and Rupert Inlets and Quatsino Sound are virtually non-existent or modified beyond recognition below the estimated marine limit of 30 metres elevation. Widespread deposits of till ( $M_b$ ,  $M_v$ ), generally locally derived, are common in both highlands and lowlands, and may attain tens of metres in thickness in certain valleys such as the Goodspeed, Cleeklagh and the southernmost eastern and western tributaries of the Koprino River. Average till thickness, however, varies from 1 to 4 metres. Glacioluvial outwash ( $F^G$ ) consisting of sand and gravel 1 to 15 metres thick, is generally restricted to many valley bottoms including the Koprino River, Hathaway Creek, Nahwitti River and Huchamu Creek. Isolated pockets of silty clay glaciolacustrine ( $L^G$ ) sediments occur in valleys (Tsukuate River and Wanokana Creek) where glacial meltwaters were once ponded by stagnant lobes of ice. Colluvium derived from till and weathered bedrock is found not only on steeper slopes, but as a ubiquitous veneer ( $C_v$ ) (less than 1 metre) or blanket ( $C_b$ ) (greater than 1 metre) which covers most other types of surficial sediment.

Howes, D. (1983): Late Quaternary Sediments and Geomorphic History of Northern Vancouver Island, British Columbia; *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, Volume 20, pages 57-65.

## **LOCATION OF GROUND INVESTIGATION SITES**

