



CENTRAL AND WEST CENTRAL  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

TOOPVILLE PLACERS  
(93G/1E)

By G. E Klein

This placer area, actively worked by Terrence M. Toop of Quesnel since 1973, lies approximately 30 kilometres east-northeast of Quesnel, on Mary Creek. The main site of operations is Placer Lease No. 7141, at the confluence of Norton and Mary Creeks. Long known to placer miners, the area had been worked sporadically over the years. Recent discoveries by Mr. Toop has rekindled interest in the area.

**GENERAL GEOLOGY**

The area is one of gentle relief and lies within the Fraser Basin. Rocks underlying the area are of Mesozoic age (H. W. Tipper, *Geol. Surv., Canada, Map 19-1960*) and where exposed by mining comprise a highly fractured and weathered argillite. The pay gravels which vary from a few centimetres to a few metres in thickness are sandwiched between what is known locally as 'blue clay' but what may be a basal till, and the argillite. Glacial till of up to 40 metres thick covers the pay gravels.

It is evident that the pre-glacial Norton Creek had a wider channel than at present and that the gold now being recovered comes from the wider channel. The gold varies from very well worn to only slightly worn suggesting differing distances of travel from origin. Several nuggets in the 28-gram range have been recovered.