



Province of British Columbia  
Ministry of Energy, Mines  
and Petroleum Resources

MINERAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
Geological Survey Branch

# GEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK 1992

*A Summary of Field Activities  
and Current Research*

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## PREFACE

The 1992 edition of *Geological Fieldwork: A Summary of Field Activities and Current Research* is the eighteenth in this annual publication series. It contains reports on Geological Survey Branch activities and projects in a year which saw a modest reduction in base-budget funding, in line with government-wide efforts to control the provincial deficit. The base budget of the Branch for the 1992/93 fiscal year was \$16.96 million, supplemented by an additional \$732 000 from the 1991-1995 Canada - British Columbia Mineral Development Agreement, (MDA) and by \$900 000 from a new government program, the British Columbia Corporate Resource Inventory Initiative (CRII) designed to improve resource inventories and assist land-use decisions.

The budget reduction resulted in the suspension of the British Columbia Geoscience Research Program, which is reflected in a sharp reduction in the number of university research papers published this year. However, the Branch has maintained a vigorous and diverse program of fieldwork and related research as demonstrated by the contents of this year's volume which include:

- Reports on nine 1:50 000-scale geological mapping programs: two in the Stikine district of northwestern British Columbia, three in the northern Quesnel trough, two on the central Interior Plateau, one on northern Vancouver Island and one in the sensitive Tatshenshini area in the northwest corner of the province.
- A report on the Katie alkaline porphyry copper prospect in the Salmo area of the West Kootenays, the first discovery of its type east of the Intermontane Belt.
- The work of the Branch's Environment Geology Section is reported in papers covering the on-going Regional Geochemical Survey program; surficial geology mapping in the central Interior Plateau and research on the viability of lake-sediment geochemistry as an exploration technique in this extensively drift-covered area; the Quaternary geology of buried gold placers in the Cariboo district; and evaluation of construction aggregate resources in the Howe sound area of the Lower Mainland.
- Progress reports on ongoing studies of the quality of British Columbia coals and the wind-up of the digital mapping program in the Northeast coalfield.
- Reports on three diverse industrial mineral occurrences: magnesite and talc in Cambrian carbonates in the Rocky Mountains, and graphite in the Coast Plutonic Complex.

The volume includes ten papers on the results of work by the Mineral Deposit Research Unit (MDRU) at The University of British Columbia. Seven cover ongoing research on the metallogenesis of the Iskut River area and related topics; three derive from research on the alkaline porphyry copper-gold systems at Copper Mountain, Mount Polley and the Iron Mask batholith.

Two major programs warrant special emphasis: the Tatshenshini and Interior Plateau projects. A proposal to develop the huge Windy Craggy copper-cobalt deposit in the Tatshenshini area of northwestern British Columbia has precipitated a major land-use conflict. The existing geoscience database in this remote and sensitive region is inadequate to fully evaluate its mineral potential. The Tatshenshini project, funded by CRII, is covered here by a four-part report. New geological and geochemical data to assist sound land-use management decisions are reported.

The Interior Plateau project, funded by MDA, is part of a cooperative effort between the Geological Survey Branch and the Geological Survey of Canada to expand the geoscience database in this thinly explored, heavily drift covered region. The Branch contribution, reported on in six papers in this volume, is an integrated program of bedrock and surficial geological mapping and lake-sediment geochemistry.

This volume of *Fieldwork* contains 48 articles, a modest decrease from last year, largely as a result of the reduced number of university research papers. Even so, meeting the January publication deadline demands a concerted and unstinting effort from our editorial and publications staff. We acknowledge the efforts of Doreen Fehr and Janet Holland on formatting and page layout, John Newell for timely edits, and Brian Grant for managing the entire process. We thank the staff of the Queen's Printer for their cheerful cooperation and enthusiasm.

*W.R. Smyth*  
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
<b>PREFACE</b> .....	3	<b>ECONOMIC GEOLOGY</b>	
<b>REGIONAL GEOLOGY</b>		2-1 <b>M.S. Cathro, K.P.E. Dunne and T.M. Naciuk:</b> Katie - An Alkaline Porphyry Copper-Gold Deposit in the Rossland Group, Southeastern British Columbia (82F/3W) .....	233
1-1 <b>M.J. Warren and R.A. Price:</b> Tectonic Significance of Stratigraphic and Structural Contrasts Between the Purcell Anticlinorium and the Kootenay Arc, East of Duncan Lake (82K) .....	9	2-2 <b>P. Stinson and D.R.M. Pattison:</b> Petrology of the Evening Star Claim, Rossland, B.C. (82F/4) .....	249
1-2 <b>G.T. Nixon, J.L. Hammack, J.V. Hamilton and H. Jennings:</b> Preliminary Geology of the Mahatta Creek Area, Northern Vancouver Island (93L/5) .....	17	2-3 <b>P.R. Bartholomew:</b> Mineral Chemistry of Some Metamorphosed Shuswap-Alsea Mineral Deposits (82L, M) .....	255
1-3 <b>J. Riddell, P. Schiarizza, R.G. Gaba, N. Cairn and A. Findlay:</b> Geology and Mineral Occurrences of the Mount Tatlow Map Area (92O/5,6,12) .....	37	2-4 <b>C.R. Stanley and J.R. Lang:</b> Geology, Geochemistry, Hydrothermal Alteration and Mineralization in the Virginia Zone, Copper Mountain Copper-Gold Camp Princeton, British Columbia (92H/7) .....	259
1-4 <b>L.J. Diakow and P. van der Heyden:</b> An Overview of the Interior Plateau Program .....	53	2-5 <b>G.E. Ray, I.C.L. Webster, G.L. Dawson and A.D. Ettlinger:</b> A Geological Overview of the Hedley Gold Skarn District, Southern British Columbia (92H) .....	269
1-5 <b>K.C. Green and L.J. Diakow:</b> The Fawnie Range Project - Geology of the Natalkuz Lake Map Area (93F/6) .....	57	2-6 <b>L.D. Snyder and J.K. Russell:</b> Field Constraints on Diverse Igneous Processes in the Iron Mask Batholith (92I/9, 10) .....	281
1-6 <b>C.H. Ash and R.W.J. Macdonald:</b> Geology, Mineralization and Litho geochemistry of the Stuart Lake Area, Central British Columbia (Parts of 93K/7, 8, 10 and 11) .....	69	2-7 <b>A. Panteleyev and V.M. Koyanagi:</b> Advanced Argillic Alteration in Bonanza Volcanic Rocks, Northern Vancouver Island - Transitions Between Porphyry Copper and Epithermal Environments (92L/12) .....	287
1-7 <b>J.L. Nelson, K.A. Bellefontaine, M.E. MacLean and K.J. Mountjoy:</b> Geology of the Klawli Lake, Kwanika Creek and Discovery Creek Map Areas, Northern Quesnel Terrane, British Columbia (93N/7W, 11E, 14E) .....	87	2-8 <b>T.M. Fraser, C.I. Godwin, J.F.H. Thompson and C.R. Stanley:</b> Geology and Alteration of the Mount Polley Alkaline Porphyry Copper-Gold Deposit, British Columbia (93A/12) .....	295
1-8 <b>F. Ferri, S. Dudka, C. Rees and D. Meldrum:</b> Geology of the Aiken Lake and Osilinka River Areas, Northern Quesnel Trough (94C/2, 3, 5, 6 & 12) .....	109	2-9 <b>A.A.D. Halleran and J.K. Russell:</b> Rare-Earth Element Bearing Pegmatites in the Wolverine Metamorphic Complex: A New Exploration Target (93N/9E, 93O/12W, 5W) .....	301
1-9 <b>J.M. Logan and J.R. Drobe:</b> Geology and Mineral Occurrences of the Mess Lake Area (104G/7W) .....	135	2-10 <b>A.J. Macdonald, P.D. Lewis, A.D. Ettlinger, R.D. Bartsch, B.D. Miller and J.M. Logan:</b> Basaltic Rocks of the Middle Jurassic Salmon River Formation, Northwestern British Columbia (104A, B, G) .....	307
1-10 <b>I. Neill and J.K. Russell:</b> Mineralogy and Chemistry of the Rugged Mountain Pluton: A Melanite-Bearing Alkaline Intrusion (104G/13) .....	149	2-11 <b>A.J. Macdonald:</b> Lithostratigraphy and Geochronometry, Brucejack Lake, Northwestern British Columbia (104B/3E) .....	315
1-11 <b>J.A. Bradford and D.A. Brown:</b> Geology of the Bearskin Lake and Southern Tatsamenie Lake Map Areas, Northwestern British Columbia (104K/1 and 8) .....	159	2-12 <b>T. Roth:</b> Surface Geology of the 21A Zone, Eskay Creek, British Columbia (104B/9W) .....	325
1-12 <b>J. Oliver and J. Gabites:</b> Geochronology of Rocks and Polyphase Deformation, Bearskin (Muddy) and Tatsamenie Lakes District, Northwestern British Columbia (104K/8, 1) .....	177	2-13 <b>R.D. Bartsch:</b> A Rhyolite Flow Dome in the Upper Hazelton Group, Eskay Creek Area (104B/9, 10) .....	331
1-13 <b>M.G. Mihalynuk, M.T. Smith and D.G. MacIntyre:</b> Tatshenshini Project, Northwestern British Columbia (114P/11, 12, 13, 14; 114O/9, 10, 14, 15 & 16) .....	189		

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page		Page
2-14 <b>P. Metcalfe and J.G. Moors:</b> Refinement and Local Correlation of the Upper Snippaker Ridge Section, Iskut River Area, B.C. (104B/10W and 11E) .....	335	4-6 <b>V.M. Koyanagi and A. Panteleyev:</b> Natural Acid-Drainage in the Mount McIntosh/Pemberton Hills Area, Northern Vancouver Island (92L/12) .....	445
2-15 <b>D.A. Rhys and P.D. Lewis:</b> Geology of the Inel Deposit Iskut River Area, Northwestern British Columbia (104B/11) .....	341	4-7 <b>S.J. Sibbick and T.A. Delaney:</b> Investigation of Anomalous RGS Stream Sediment Sites in Central British Columbia (92N, O and P) .....	451
2-16 <b>A.W. Kaip and M.D. McPherson:</b> Preliminary Geology of the Hank Property, Northwestern British Columbia (104G/1, 2) .....	349	4-8 <b>V.M. Levson, R. Clarkson and M. Douma:</b> Evaluating Buried Placer Deposits in the Cariboo Region of Central British Columbia (93A, B, G, H) .....	463
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>		4-9 <b>S.J. Cook:</b> Preliminary Report on Lake Sediment Studies in the Northern Interior Plateau, Central British Columbia (93C, E, F, K, L) .....	475
3-1 <b>G. Benvenuto:</b> Geology of Several Talc Occurrences in Middle Cambrian Dolomites, Southern Rocky Mountains British Columbia (82N/1E, 82O/4W) .....	361	4-10 <b>T.R. Giles and D.E. Kerr:</b> Surficial Geology in the Chilanko Forks and Chezacut Areas (93C/1, 8) .....	483
3-2 <b>K.D. Hancock and G.J. Simandl:</b> Geology of the Anzac Magnesite Deposit (93J/16W, 93O/1W) .....	381	4-11 <b>D.N. Proudfoot:</b> Drift Exploration and Surficial Geology of the Clusko River and Toil Mountain Map Sheets (93C/9, 16) .....	491
3-3 <b>N. Marchildon, G.J. Simandl and K.D. Hancock:</b> The AA Graphite Deposit, Bella Coola Area, British Columbia: Exploration Implications for the Coast Plutonic Complex (92M/15) .....	389	4-12 <b>A.J. Sinclair and T.A. Delaney:</b> Preliminary Evaluation of Multielement Regional Stream Sediment Data, Iskut River Area (104B) .....	499
<b>APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY AND SURFICIAL GEOLOGY</b>		<b>COAL</b>	
4-1 <b>W. Jackaman:</b> 1992 Regional Geochemical Survey Program: Review of Activities .....	401	5-1 <b>B.D. Ryan and J.T. Price:</b> The Predicted Coke Strength After Reaction Values of British Columbia Coals, with Comparisons to International Coals .....	507
4-2 <b>H.E. Blyth and N.W. Rutter:</b> Quaternary Geology of Southeastern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands (92B/5, 6, 11, 12, 13 and 14) .....	407	5-2 <b>M.E. Holuszko:</b> Washability of Lithotypes from a Selected Seam in the East Kootenay Coalfield, Southeast British Columbia (82J/2) .....	517
4-3 <b>V.M. Levson:</b> Applied Surficial Geology Program: Aggregate Potential Mapping, Squamish Area (92G) .....	415	5-3 <b>M.E. Holuszko, A. Matheson and D.A. Grieve:</b> Pyrite Occurrences in Telkwa and Quinsam Coal Seams (92F/4) .....	527
4-4 <b>P.T. Bobrowsky, D.E. Kerr, S.J. Sibbick and K. Newman:</b> Drift Exploration Studies, Valley Copper Pit, Highland Valley Copper Mine, British Columbia: Stratigraphy and Sedimentology (92I/6, 7, 10 and 11) .....	427	5-4 <b>J.M. Cunningham and B.W. Sprecher:</b> Peace River Coalfield Digital Mapping Project, 1992 Fieldwork (93I/9, 10) .....	537
4-5 <b>D.E. Kerr, S.J. Sibbick and G.D. Belik:</b> Preliminary Results of Glacial Dispersion Studies on the Galaxy Property, Kamloops, B.C. (92I/9) .....	439	<b>EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS AND UNIVERSITY RESEARCH</b>	
		6-1 University Research in British Columbia .....	549
		6-2 Selected Recent External Publications by B.C. Geological Survey Branch Staff .....	551