GREAT SLAVE LAKE CLEAN-UP 1994

This years' project commenced in Hay River on June 1, 1994, with the refit of the Hugh A. Young and various barges that you see assembled here. Once preparations were completed in Yellowknife some six weeks later, the fleet sailed to Outpost Island on July 10th to begin remediation of the first of six sites. Each site was evaluated for its' historical significance, and every effort was made to preserve and enhance the essential character of the location as well as remove all materials hazardous to public safety.

An area of significant importance to all of the participants in the program was to provide an opportunity for members of the Metis Nation (particularly its' students) to gain skills in a wide variety of areas. This would include training in: first aid, fire and marine safety, rope splicing, WHIMIS,operation of a metal shredder, plasma cutter, metal cut-off saws, chain-saws and fire suppression equipment,boat handling, helicopter support, load-rigging, and general ships maintenance. As well, two students were trained as deckhands under the guidance of D.P.W. personnel. It is expected that this training will greatly increase the entire crews' chances of employment in private industry in the years to come.

An extensive amount of equipment was required to handle the large volumes and tonnages of metal debris. A crucial component of this equipment is the large machine on-board the Aurora Surveyor, a 500 horsepower hydraulic metal shredder.

It and its' sister machine in Coral Harbour were purchased by

the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to reduce the volume of the many hundreds of thousands of 45 gallon steel drums scattered throughout the north at sites left there prior to the establishment of land use regulations in 1972. The enormous volume of this many drums as well as their classification as dangerous goods would have made the cost of disposal prohibitive without volume reduction and the reclassification of the shredded product as scrap metal. The shredder is capable of reducing the volume of steel drums and like items to 1/5th of their original size. This year it has proven invaluable as it has increased the on-board storage capacity of the operation by a factor of four. With a skilled operator it will handle approximately 80 drums per hour. The western arctic shredder dubbed T-WRECKS, and various support equipment, are beginning their first year of operation on Great Slave Lake. When completed, this years' project will have handled approximately 400 tonnes of steel, 2.5 tonnes of broken glass, 16 tonnes of calcium carbonate, and 2 tonnes of asbestos related material. Eight separate mine shafts were capped at three locations,five with reinforced concrete and the remaining three filled with local material. Out Post Island required moving 2500 cubic meters of waste rock to backfill a large trench and groom the site. Thirty-five thousand cubic feet of waste wood was burned at sixty-nine separate burn sites including sixteen condemned buildings, many containing asbestos sheeting which required prior disposal. Thirty-one hundred gallons of waste oil were collected and burned in a high temperature waste oil incinerator purchased for the Arctic Environmental Strategy. The remaining support

equipment includes a plasma arc cutter employed extensively on the larger steel items, welding equipment for machine repair, gasoline powered cut-off saws to cut some 1.25 miles of steel pipe, as well as the extensive use of four wheel drive all terrain vehicles for material transport. A Hughes 500D helicopter was required for the last two locations due to the inaccessibility of these sites. This years' clean-up was made possible under a program funded by the Arctic Environmental Strategy, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with the co-operation of the Federal Department of Public Works marine division. The program was administered by the Metis Nation of Yellowknife and site management, logistics, and supervision were provided by Terra Verra Company of Yellowknife.

You will find included in this document a map outlining the various locations worked on in 1994 by the Hugh A. Young and related vessels. An additional thirteen sites were cleaned up under a separate arrangement with a local businessman employing a 50' fishing vessel and Metis Nation employees. This is indicated on the map provided. Some historical material on Out Post Island and DeStaffany Mine sites is included as well as photo-documentation of the various sites.

Please feel free to request additional information concerning this years' operation from any of our project people. We hope you enjoy your visit here.

This report was prepared by Terra Verra Company

MINING BITS

Mac Treilhard

Born again miners

What happens when you mix mining with forced labour, religious fanaticism, bad management and poor financing? The answer is found in the life of Slave Lake Gold Mine.

Slave Lake Gold Mine was discovered in the mid thirties during the first mining rush in the Yellowknife region. Situated on Outpost Island in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, the mine showed enough promise to justify a three year program of development which saw a shaft sunk and various drifts and cross-cuts opened up before the operation was abandoned in 1938.

In 1940, the mine was reopened under new owners. The workings were pumped dry, a mill was built and production of ore commenced.

But when the mine reopened, World War II had been in prgress about a year with catastrophic consequences for gold camps. As one of the Allied powers, Canada needed metals essential to the production of war materiel — and gold was not numbered among such strategic metals. One after another, gold mines were shut down all across the country, and in Yellowknife only the Negus would remain open for the duration of the war.

The Outpost Island mine struggled to make ends meet for two years and appeared destined for yet another closure when in the spring of 1942 tungsten nearly doubled in price by rising from $12 to $20 a pound.

Now, it so happened that one of the by-products of the Outpost operation was tungsten, a strategic metal used in hardening steel. As a tungsten producer, the mine gained a new lease on life, and the Canadian Government diverted manpower and other resources to assist the operation of the mine. The future appeared bright and excitement at the Outpost site and among Yellowknife businessmen was great. How could a mine fail to be a success in the 1940's when it produced a metal critical in the manufacture of armour plating and artillery shells?

Well, aside from a marketable product, a profitable mine also needs competent management, adequate financing and experienced miners — all of which Slave Lake Gold Mine lacked.

In the first place, the mine had troubles with management. Just at the time the price of tungsten shot upward, a wheeler dealer call W.W. Davies out maneuvered the Board of Directors and assumed control at Outpost. A mere opportunist with little practical knowledge of mining, he succeeded in alienating most of the staff and steered the operation on a course toward disaster.

Then there was the problem of a shortage of investment capital. Working with antiquated and inadequate machinery, work underground and in the mill ground slowly to a halt.

Finally, the Outpost mine was being run without any real miners. The experienced men had long since been shipped to the fronts in Europe and North Africa. The only available workers were members of a religious sect — the Jehovah's Witnesses — who on refusing to join the military were first imprisoned and then released on condition that they work in war industries. So it was that a barge-load of young, able-bodied Witnesses were shipped north to the bleak little island in Great Slave Lake where they were expected to man both the underground and surface operations.

Many a mine has been called a "jackpot," but surely none has so deserved the title as that on Outpost Island. Picture the scene that must have confronted the onlooker: a manager with little more than a gift for blarney directing the labour of a crew of disgruntled religious fanatics who were compelled to work with machinery held together by bailing wire and who were being paid with cheques which were invariably returned with a big red stamp saying "NSF." A more ludicrous situation is difficult to imagine.

It goes without saying that Slave Lake Gold Mine's days were numbered. A short six months after emphasis was shifted from production of gold to that of tungsten, a mutinous staff and crew decided to abandon W.W. Davies and the mine. Lacking the cash to pay for transportation of the crew, the company left the employees to fend for themselves.

Desperate to quit the island before winter settled on the country, a determined French Canadian, Art Dion, marshalled the Witnesses and directed their efforts in the construction of a rough scow. An engine was torn from the compressor house and installed in the craft for power, and just as the first snow of the season fell in late October 1942, the workers sailed for Fort Simith, so ending one of the more ignominious chapters in NWT mining.

Mackenzie district mining activity

NOV. 1984

Claims Recorded	5,937.74 hec	14
Claims Lapsed	12,813.67 hec	214
Total Claims in Good Standing	1,680,126.33 hec	20,115
Transfers (claims affected)		265
Certificates of Work (claims affected)		54
Grouping Certificates		14
Individual Licenses Sold		6
Company Licenses Sold		5
Claim Tags Sold		28
Claim Sheets Sold		143

OUTPOST ISLAND

HISTORY

The claims were staked in July 1935 for Athabaska Syndicate by W. D. Brady, M. J. Shunsby, and H. D. Tudor, and were later acquired by Slave Lake Gold Mines, Limited. The claims were explored by N. A. Timmins Corporation, which held the property under option from November 1935 to March 1938. Work ceased at the latter date, and at that time the main (No. 1) shaft was about 450 feet deep, and drifts and crosscuts, opened on five levels, totalled about 1,700 feet. The mine was then abandoned and remained idle until it was reopened by Slave Lake Gold Mines, Limited, on September 5, 1940, with J. C. Byrne as manager. It was dewatered to the 200-foot level by November 17, and mining commenced on December 5, 1940. Erection of a 50-ton mill had begun in the meantime and milling started about February 1, 1941. Only gold was recovered at first, but on May 1, 1941, the recovery of tungsten concentrates commenced. The operators were handicapped by lack of working capital[1] and were, consequently, unable to do sufficient development work to maintain ore reserves. The mill was shut down on August 9, 1942, at which time the No. 1 (main) ore shoot was essentially exhausted between the 425-foot level and the surface. Underground work continued until the property was closed in October 1942. During this production period the efforts of the company were devoted chiefly to the recovery of gold; but some tungsten was recovered. The property was examined during the summer of 1942, on behalf of the Metals Controller, as a possible source of tungsten, then a metal in short supply. International Tungsten Mines, Limited, incorporated in 1942, acquired the property of Slave Lake Gold Mines, Limited, and optioned it to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, during part of 1943. Philmore Yellowknife Gold Mines, Limited, incorporated in 1945, acquired the assets of International Tungsten Mines, Limited, in April 1946. So far as known, no significant work was done at the property between October 1942 and December 31, 1948.

PRODUCTION AND ORE RESERVES

The following production data were supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics:

Year	Ore treated	Concentrates shipped	Gold (in bullion)	Gold (in concentrates)	Silver	Copper (in concentrates)	WO_3 (in concentrates)
	Tons	Tons	Ounces	Ounces	Ounces	Pounds	Pounds
1941	12,956	Not available	5,637	373	27	35,420	8,732
1942	7,368	297	3,172	723	48	77,443	18,968
Totals	20,324	.....	8,809	1,096	75	112,863	27,700

Reserve ore in place underground, as of September 1942, amounted to about 11,000 tons grading about 0·6 ounce gold a ton, 0·6 per cent WO_3,

[1] Slave Lake Gold Mines, Limited: Report to Bondholders and Shareholders for the Period Ending December 31st, 1941, p. 2.

and included rock that projects about 35 feet east-southeast from the vein; the northerly wall, corresponding with the inner side of the hook, dips about 60 degrees north-northeast. Southwest of the 'Hump' the attitude of the wall-rocks is not known. North-northeast of the 'Hump' the beds are parallel with the vein; those on the west wall are slate, those on the east wall greywacke. The southern half of the vein contains minor inclusions of rock, and the walls are sharp and commonly bordered by a few inches of sheared slate within which occur parallel quartz veinlets. The northern half of the vein comprises a zone of sheared slate, 2 or 3 feet wide, containing 10 to 50 per cent quartz as veinlets and irregular lenses. The quartz throughout the vein is mainly dark grey to white, and commonly well fractured. It contains white to red feldspar and less than 1 per cent of the metallic minerals pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite (?), and gold. Quartz from the pit south of the 'Hump' afforded spectacular specimens wherein the gold occurred mainly as thin films.

DeStaffany Tantalum Beryllium Mines, Limited

(Moose, Big Hill, Tan, and Best Bet Claims) (127)

References: Bureau of Mines, 1943b; 1944a; 1944c; 1945b. Bureau of Northwest Territories and Yukon Affairs, 1947a, Mineral Claim Sheet 85-I-1. Fortier, 1947a. Jolliffe, 1944a.

INTRODUCTION

The properties of DeStaffany Tantalum Beryllium Mines, Limited, include the Moose group of fifteen claims on the north side of Hearne Channel, in the east arm of Great Slave Lake, 72 miles east-southeast of Yellowknife; the Big Hill No. 2 claim 4 miles west-southwest, the Tan group of four claims 5 miles west-northwest, and the Best Bet No. 1 claim 5 miles northwest of the Moose group. They are accessible by aircraft, or by boat or tractor through Hearne Channel. Ramona Nos. 1 to 4 claims, staked west of Buckham Lake in 1947, are described elsewhere (123). G. D. DeStaffany is managing director. The following data are derived mainly from published and unpublished reports by A. W. Jolliffe, who visited the Moose and Tan groups in 1943; Y. O. Fortier, who examined the Best Bet No. 1 claim in 1945; and M. Meikle, who inspected operations on the Moose group in 1946 for the Bureau of Northwest Territories and Yukon Affairs.

HISTORY, PRODUCTION, PLANT, AND DEVELOPMENT

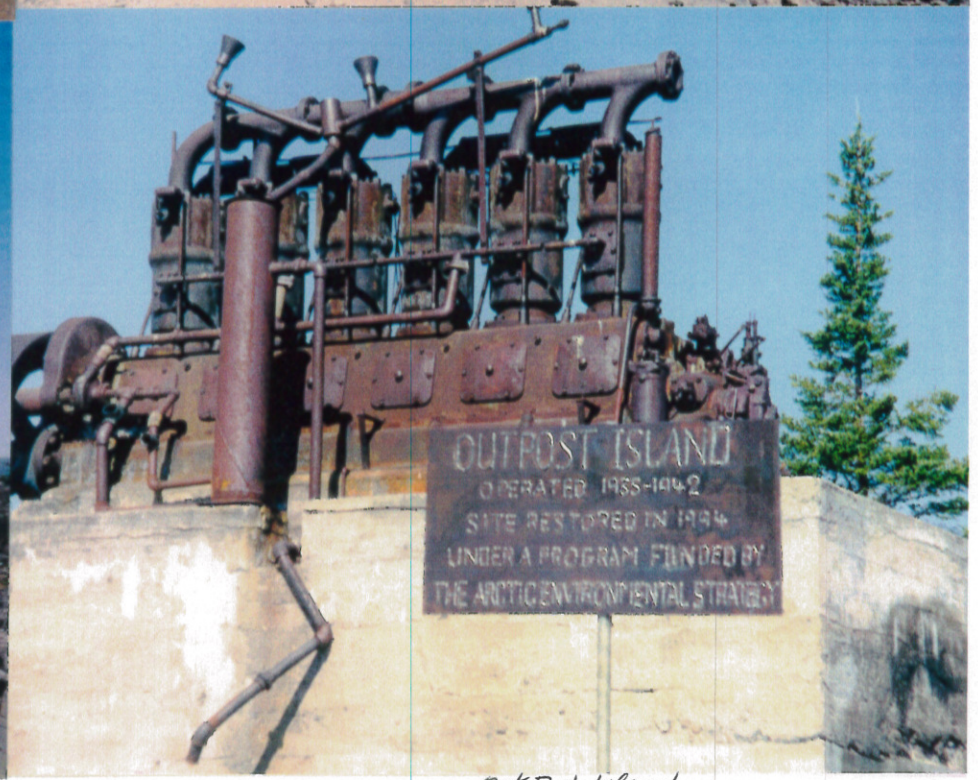
In July 1942, Moose Nos. 1 and 2 claims were staked on behalf of DeStaffany Tungsten Gold Mines, Limited, to cover scheelite occurrences found by G. D. DeStaffany and A. Greathouse. The following year the group was enlarged to include two pegmatite dykes carrying rare-element minerals. Three Tan claims were staked in July and August 1943 on behalf of the same company. The Best Bet No. 1 claim was staked in 1944. These properties, and the Big Hill No. 2 claim, were subsequently acquired by DeStaffany Tantalum Berryllium Mines, Limited, incorporated in 1945. By July 1946 a crew of six men were employed, a 5½- by 7-foot shaft had been sunk to a depth of 40 feet on Moose No. 11 or No. 12 claim, and a mill erected on Moose No. 11 claim at the shore of Great Slave Lake. The mill, designed to produce a tantalite-columbite concentrate,

Hay River Retrofit

Yellowknife

OutPost Island
upon arrival

Out Post Island upon completion



Out Post Island

Out Post Island during remediation

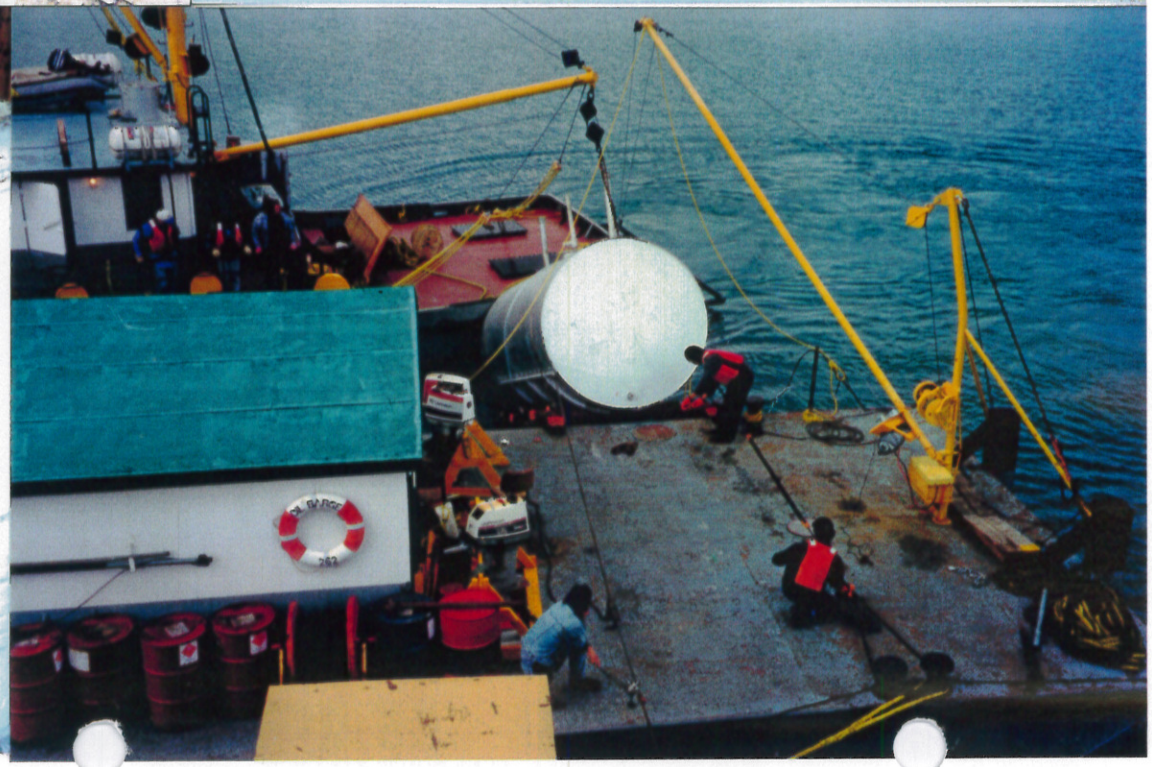
Out Post Island

Aurous Mines
shafts capped

DeStaffany

DeStaffany

Arctic Star Lodge



Arctic Star Lodge

Lutsel Kē
Community
demonstration