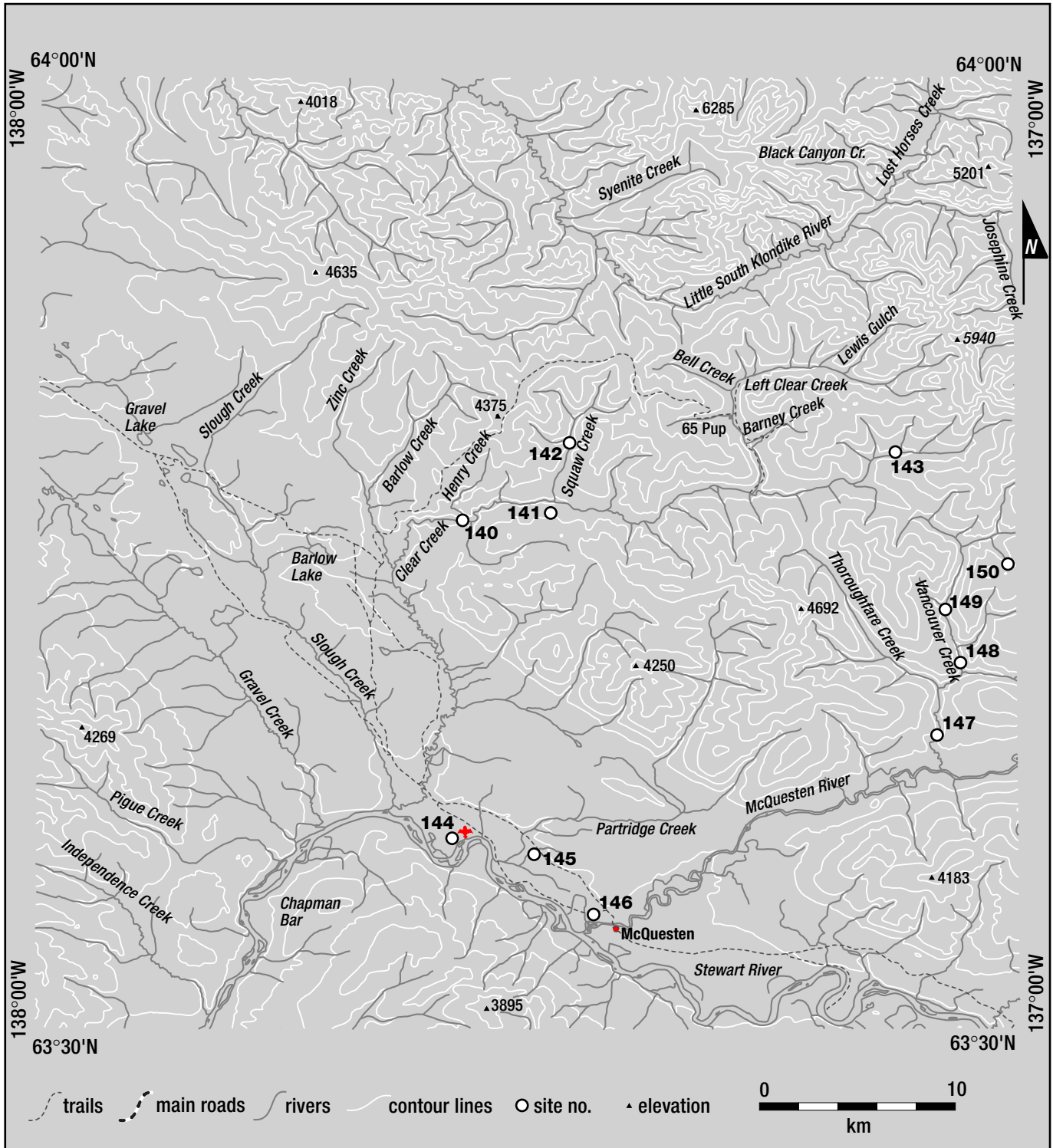


SOUTH McQUESTEN PLACER AREA

SITES
140-150



LEGEND

140..... Bill Wasylenko, Clear Creek
141..... Hollis Mining, Clear Creek
142..... J. & J. Scott, Squaw Creek

143..... Prospecta Mining, Clear Creek
144 Robert Stirling, Stewart River
145..... Del Buerge, Partridge Creek
146..... Keith Dye, Stewart River

147..... D. Connelly, Vancouver Creek
148..... Vince Young, Vancouver Creek
149..... Ken Pratt, Vancouver Creek
150..... John Wheelton, Vancouver Creek

CLEAR CREEK**115P/13**

William Wasylenko 63°46'N 137°34'W
 Water Licence: PM95-082 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
 South McQuesten Placer Area **Site no. 140**

OPERATION/LOCATION In 1998, Grew Creek Ventures Ltd., Wilf's Contracting and Bill Wasylenko all operated at this location on Clear Creek, just upstream from its confluence with Barlow Creek. The joint venture set up two separate wash plants and mined four cuts. In 1999, Grew Ventures moved on and only three cuts were made. In 2000, 2001 and 2002, this operation was reduced to one-person, mining intermittently throughout the season, due to rising fuel costs.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION A Caterpillar D9 bulldozer, Hyundai 38-ton excavator, two Caterpillar (950 + 980) front-end loaders and a 690 John Deere excavator worked the property in various capacities over the past five years.

WASH PLANT During 1998, a shaker plant was employed as well as the Super Sluice 6, using a line bottom single run sluice and averaging about 80 cubic yards per day for one 12-hour shift. The pump was a 6-inch high pressure electric pump capable of 900 igpm and powered by a 6-cylinder Isuzu diesel engine. Only the Super Sluice 6 and a Merideth box (similar to the Ross box) was used from 1999 to 2002, with runs measuring 30 by 16 and 30 by 8. Mr. Wasylenko also switched to a Home 10-inch by 6-inch pump powered by a Ford Diesel engine capable of 90 igpm. The operator processed approximately 60 to 70 cubic yards per hour. Final cleanups were performed with a reverse spiral drum.

GROUND DESCRIPTION The ground encountered from 1998 to 2000 was composed of 4 to 8 feet of sandy topsoil, 20 feet of gravels with bedrock, mixed with yellow clays, ridging across the valley. In 2001 and 2002, the operator moved to the left limit and began to run into overburden from 10 to 15 feet deep overlaying 8 to 10 feet of gravels. The pit mined in 2002 had frozen overburden running in waves.

MINING CUTS In 1998, four mining cuts were excavated, averaging 150 by 250 feet, with one large cut at 500 by 350 feet out of which approximately 35,000 cubic yards were sluiced. Three cuts were made in 1999 averaging 200 by 300 feet. In 2000, activities were considerably reduced and only two pits were excavated measuring 100 by 150 and 100 by 50 feet respectively. An extremely wet season with high water hampered activities. In 2001, Mr. Wasylenko tried to follow a pay streak in the left limit bench. As a result, an area of 200 by 100 by 15 feet was stripped to promote thawing of ground and a 300- by 150- by 20-foot pit was trenched. Equipment was reduced to a D8 Caterpillar bulldozer and the 690 John Deere. The waste section averaged 10 to 14 feet. The bottom 8 feet were sluiced. In 2002, the cut was 125 feet by 300 feet, and the sluice section averaged 6 feet of gravels and 2 feet of bedrock.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT This operation is entirely out-of-stream, with a drain connecting to a series of settling ponds from old mining cuts before discharging into Clear Creek proper. Water is collected in an upstream reservoir with no recycling.

GOLD Gold is extremely fine-grained, flat in shape and bright in colour, with a fineness of 820-840.

COMMENTS Reclamation and restoration is being completed as mining progresses. Tailings upstream of camp have now been contoured and re-sloped. Strippings from the last two pits on the left limit were spread over old mining areas, reclaiming an area 600 feet long and 100 feet wide of old washed tailings. The remainder of the overburden has been safely stockpiled for restoration at the completion of mining the current pit.

CLEAR CREEK**115P/14**

Hollis Mining & Exploration 63°46'N 137°27'W
 Water Licence: PM96-034 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
 South McQuesten Placer Area **Site no. 141**

OPERATION/LOCATION This was a one-person operation running one five-hour shift per day which increased to a 14-hour shift in 2001. It was located on Clear Creek upstream from the mouth of Squaw Creek. In 1997, Adrian Hollis did some test pits in old tailings as well as the virgin ground on the left limit. In May and June of 1998, the left limit was stripped and overburden stockpiled. The wash plant was put into production by July 1998 and the entire operation was completed by the end of 2001.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION A Komatsu PC400 was the only excavator used at this site.

WASH PLANT The sluice set up was composed of an 8- by 10-inch hopper and 10-inch grizzly to help deal with the large boulders in this area. A 5- by 11-foot screen deck reduced material to 7/16 which was sent through two 8-foot wide sluice runs with hydraulic riffles. A 5-inch Cornell pump was used powered by a Caterpillar 3208 diesel engine capable of 1000 igpm. The processing rate was 150 cubic yards per hour and Mr. Hollis sluiced five to six hours daily.

GROUND DESCRIPTION Overburden was frozen black muck and previous gravel tailings which had been pushed up on the left limit. At 35 feet, the first bedrock was encountered and tended to be wavy, varying from completely decomposed to fractured. The sluice section in this ground was 2 feet of decomposed bedrock and anywhere from 8 to 10 feet of fractured. In 2001, Mr. Hollis encountered less frozen black muck (20 feet) and was able to mine 3 feet of creek gravels and 2 feet of decomposed bedrock.

MINING CUTS By 2000, the operator had completed mining and sluicing a cut approximately 2400 feet by 60 feet. A final cut was made in 2001 of about 650 feet by 6 feet.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Water was acquired from Clear Creek and pumped to a reservoir, well out-of-stream. A series of three tailing ponds which were old mine workings from a previous era ensured that the effluent was well within the required 2.5 ml/l. The operator was unable to recycle due to the porous nature of the gravels and very poor water retention.

GOLD The gold was bright coloured and found in quartz-scheelite formations. The shape of the gold was flat and fine, ranging from +10 to +60 in particle size. A long tom was used for final cleanups.

COMMENTS Mr. Hollis pursued a progressive reclamation program. All tailings were contoured, sloped and covered with the stockpiled overburden to enhance natural revegetation of the mined area. In 2000, his operation was recommended for the Robert E. Leckie Award for reclamation practices above and beyond what was required by mining land use legislation. Mr. Hollis moved all equipment, structures and waste off site and a Certificate of Completion and Cancellation of Water Licence was issued in 2002.

SQUAW CREEK

115P/14

W.J.H. Scott 63°48'N 137°27'W
Water Licence: PM99-112 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
South McQuesten Placer Area **Site no. 142**

OPERATION/LOCATION John and Joyce Scott moved to this location from 65 Pup in 1998 and set up a temporary camp at the headwaters of Squaw Creek, a right limit tributary to Clear Creek. Access to this area is via a road which descends from an old ridge road high above the valley proper. In 2002, they were joined by their son, Gordon Scott.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION In 1998 and 1999, a 690 John Deere back hoe with a half yard bucket was used to test the ground. In 2000, they employed a D9G Caterpillar bulldozer with "S" blade and single ripper for stripping and reclamation, a 977H Caterpillar loader for stacking tailings and the John Deere excavator to feed the wash plant and build diversions and ponds. A new 225 Caterpillar back hoe with a ¾-yard bucket was acquired in 2002 for this purpose and the 690 John Deere took over stacking tailings. The Caterpillar 977H excavator was retired to standby duty.

WASH PLANT A 4- by 4-foot shaker plant was used to initially test the gravels, attached to a Gorman Rupp 6- by 6-inch pump powered by a Ford 300 diesel engine and capable of 500 igpm. During the second season, a 3- by 4-foot shaker

plant with ½ inch screen deck attached to 4- by 8-foot sluice runs with hydraulic riffles over Nomad matting. Approximately 30 loose yards were processed per hour. The pump was powered by a 1.2 litre Hyundai motor for a short time, but the operation returned to the Ford 300 six cylinder diesel in 2002. Final cleanups were conducted with hydraulic boil boxes and a long tom.

GROUND DESCRIPTION The overburden consisted of 1 to 3 feet of mossy vegetation and silty dirt. Six to 12 feet of washed rock ranging from pea-sized gravels to boulders covered a layer of hard subsoil encrusted with calcium-carbonate typical of semiarid regions. This hardpan was composed of coarse gravels and heavy clays which ranged from 1 to 3 feet. Bedrock was unconsolidated, fractured, red-coloured metamorphic rock. The sluice section was 1 foot of the washed gravels, all of the hardpan and from 2 to 3 feet of the bedrock.

MINING CUTS In 1998, only testing was done. Two cuts were mined in 1999, one 135 by 20 feet and a second cut 90 by 20 feet. The operator sluiced for approximately 53 hours in 2000 from a 270 by 120 cut. In 2001, the operation moved further upstream and a cut 350 by 80 feet was made and the bottom 3 feet sluiced over a period of 106 hours. Due to the elusive nature of the pay streak and the narrowness of the valley, it was decided in 2002 to move back to the beginning and mine the entire valley, building diversion channels for the creek as required. Fifteen sections were completed, each approximately 50 by 100 feet.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT A series of three settling ponds were constructed out-of-stream on the lower end of Squaw Creek, each approximately 50 by 50 feet. A bedrock drain was constructed on the right limit to accumulate and drain groundwater and seepage. Diversion channels were placed on the left limit. An upstream reservoir was maintained to collect and retain water for sluicing. In 2002, the number of settling ponds was increased to seven to ensure proper containment of effluent due to unpredictable, heavy rainstorms experienced and the additional material being handled.

GOLD The gold is bright with a fineness of 900. Most is -14 mesh in size. Fifty percent of the gold is flat and well worn and 50 percent is not worn or well travelled.

COMMENTS Reclamation at this site is progressive and ongoing. In 2000, 700 feet of mined area was reclaimed moving about 5000 cubic yards of material. Unless required for drains or ponds, the cuts are filled in with the material taken from the next site and overburden is spread back over the contoured tailings. Due to increased activity in 2002 and a change of mining plans, no reclamation was done in 2002.

CLEAR CREEK**115P/14**

Prospecta Mining Ltd. 63°47'N 137°14'W
 Water Licence: PM99-092 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
 South McQuesten Placer Area **Site no. 143**

OPERATION/LOCATION Dick and Judi Board continued their operation on the Right Fork of Clear Creek just below the Queenstake dredge. There were two miners and two camp personnel running one 12-hour shift daily. The 1997 operation on the right limit tributary was discontinued and mining returned to the main creek. After mining in 1998, they decided to try to sell the property. Only testing, restoration of creek channel and reclamation were done from 1999 to 2002.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION Two 155A Komatsu bulldozers with U-blades and rippers were used for stripping frozen overburden and stockpiling gravels. A Komatsu 450 loader with a 4½-yard bucket was employed to remove tailings and a Bantam C260 backhoe with a ¾ yard digging bucket and a 1½-yard front-end loader dug drains and fed the sluice plant.

WASH PLANT A 5-foot in diameter by 40-foot long trommel classified material to ¾ inch minus attached to a single sluice run 42 feet long by 4 feet wide. The sluice run was lined with both angle iron riffles and expanded metal over Nomad matting. Water was obtained with an 8-inch pump, capable of 1200 igpm and processed about 100 cubic yards per hour. A jig with a long tom was used for final cleanup of the gold which was then screened and tabled.

GROUND DESCRIPTION An average of 4 feet of overburden and 3 feet of gravel were encountered. Overburden was frozen and uniform in composition. Bedrock was flat, not wavy and unconsolidated.

MINING CUTS Prospecta Mining Ltd. mined six cuts, which averaged in size 150 feet by 250 feet in 1998 only. During the following years, the company tried to sell this operation and spent time organizing and fixing equipment, completing reclamation and restoration work and preparing ground for temporary closure. A few small areas were tested and sluiced. In 2001 and 2002, the majority of fuel tanks and equipment had been hauled out of the valley and only the camp remains.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Effluent treatment was out-of-stream and the standard was 2.5 ml/l. Pond size was about 200 feet by 300 feet and there was approximately 10% recycle possible.

GOLD The gold was mostly flat, although some pieces were angular in shape. Recovery consisted of about 10% at +10, 70% at -10 to +60 and the remaining 10% at -60%. Fineness was consistently around 840.

STEWART RIVER**115P/12**

Robert Stirling 63°36'N 137°34'W
 Water Licence: PM00-193 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
 South McQuesten Placer Area **Site no. 144**

OPERATION/LOCATION Minor exploration activities occurred on the claims since the 1994 and 1996 mining seasons when the major mine development occurred.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION A Kubota KH-41 excavator was used to access pay gravels, while hand testing was done to prove pay values. In 1996, an orbital spinning box had been used to recover thin bar gold. Since 1996, the property has seen minor exploration activities for several weeks a year within the confines of the 1994 to 1996 mining disturbance.

GROUND DESCRIPTION Mining was on bar deposits on an overgrown back channel of the Stewart River. Values are reportedly very fine in shallow layers.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Ground water from the mining cut is used for sluicing and is re-circulated through the mine cut.

GOLD Reported as thin bar gold which would fit through a 1 mm screen.

PARTRIDGE CREEK**115P/12**

Del Buerge 63°35'N 137°28'W
 Schedule III 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
 South McQuesten Placer Area **Site no. 145**

OPERATION/LOCATION Del Buerge continues to mine this dry bench on an unnamed right limit tributary of Partridge Creek in his spare time from the Partridge Creek Farm, a business in the same area. Mr. Buerge and, on occasion, other members of the family, usually find time in mid- to late August for this venture.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION A Construction King 580B backhoe and loader is used for stripping ground, loading and feeding the wash plant, as well as removal of tailings.

WASH PLANT The wash plant is a unique, lightweight home-built aluminum trommel which is easily moved from site to site. Its dimensions are 15 inches wide by 4 feet long and it is attached to a 10-foot by 42 inch dump box. The punch plate is ½ to 1½ millimetres in size. Added to this is a 3-foot sluice run which contains 2-inch expanded metal over a wool blanket. A small 2-inch Honda pump, powered by a 5-horsepower gas engine is capable of 40 igpm, processing an average of 6 cubic yards per hour.

GROUND DESCRIPTION The ground is composed of old bar and channels of the Stewart River which are readily visible in aerial photographs. Values are contained in the top 3 feet of

gravel which are thawed, almost immediately beneath the surface overburden.

MINING CUTS An area approximately 300 feet by 200 feet has been excavated and processed over the years. Only six days were spent at the site in 2002, finishing sluicing of the stockpiled materials and cleanup.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT All activity is out-of-stream. This tributary basically flows beneath the ground and water acquisition is from Partridge Creek proper.

GOLD Ninety percent of the gold recovered is -60 or finer with a fineness of 845.

COMMENTS Reclamation is progressive at this site.

McQUESTEN RIVER 115P/11

Keith Dye 63°33'N 137°25'W
Water Licence: PM94-104 1998, 1999, 2000
South McQuesten Placer Area Site no. 146

OPERATION/LOCATION This was a small-scale exploratory program to prove placer gold values on the McQuesten River near the confluence with the Stewart River. Test pits with stripping and pit excavations washed materials through a trommel wash plant. No mining activity took place in the last years of the licence due to the lack of an access agreement with the local First Nation.

VANCOUVER CREEK 115P/11

Don Connelly 63°38'N 137°07'W
Water Licence: PM97-005 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
South McQuesten Placer Area Site no. 147

OPERATION/LOCATION Don Connelly has operated a family mine since 1998 on the lower reaches of Vancouver Creek. In 1998, an exploratory season began with the construction of a two-stage settling facility and drain, which was completed by winter. The following years were spent progressively mining upstream from the original testing area.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION A Caterpillar 235 excavator was used for processing pay gravels and a Caterpillar D-8 bulldozer was used for stripping and placement of waste.

WASH PLANT A vibrating screen deck with a single sluice run measuring 32 feet long by 4 feet wide has been used for the four years of mining.

GROUND DESCRIPTION The ground varies throughout the length of Vancouver Creek, but in general, the top 2 feet of the stratigraphic profile is organic, followed by 4 feet of sands and fine gravels. These layers are stripped and stockpiled. Under the sand is another 5 feet of coarse gravels and

boulders underlain by 4 feet of a clay and gravel conglomerate which constitutes the pay gravels for this operator. Beneath the clay layer was an additional 12 feet of material before bedrock was reached which proved unsatisfactory to mine.

MINING CUTS Test pits and construction of the drain and the two-stage settling ponds were the only work done during 1998. The 1999 mining season saw a single cut mined 60 feet wide by 200 feet long by 27 feet deep. This was the only year which the mining cut was to bedrock. The 2000 season had a single mining cut 50 feet wide by 100 feet long reaching to the clay layer in depth for an estimated 12,300 cubic yards of material processing. No mining activity was done beyond testing and exploratory work during the 2001 and 2002 seasons.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Vancouver Creek supplied the wash plant as required, which fed through the drain created by previous mining cuts to the settling ponds located out-of-stream at the lowest point of mining work by Don Connelly.

GOLD Gold values were reported to be 50% ¼ minus and the remaining gold was 16 mesh or finer using a Tyler sieve. Gold values recovered were low and no fineness rating was available.

VANCOUVER CREEK 115P/14

Vince Young 63°45'N 137°03'W
Water Licence: PM00-177 2000, 2001, 2002
South McQuesten Placer Area Site no. 148

OPERATION/LOCATION Exploratory testing of the ground by Vince Young and different partners has occurred sporadically since 2001. No mining occurred in 2000 or 2002 and three different partners in 2001 have resulted in tested ground with reported 150-200 colours per pan in fine flour values.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION A Caterpillar D-8H and a Caterpillar 235 excavator with a UH-107 Hitachi excavator was the equipment utilized in the testing programs.

WASH PLANT A 20-foot by 36-inch wide long tom with riffles on a 2¼ inch spacing over expanded metal with synthetic matting underneath.

GROUND DESCRIPTION Pay gravels were found to be located above a false bedrock of blue clay and were 8 feet to 12 feet thick. All gravels below the top 2 feet were washed as pay gravels to the clay layer. All testing of the materials below the clay layer proved that boulders and glacial till were to be found to bedrock below the clay but no values were located below the false bedrock layer.

MINING CUTS Test cuts throughout the mining claims on Vancouver Creek have been the only activity to date.



Don Connelly's operation on Vancouver Creek.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Ground water has been utilized from the mine cut and the effluent has been returned to the mine cut for full re-circulation and settling. An Armstrong 3½ inch by 4 inch diesel water pump supplied the wash plant.

GOLD All reported gold values were flour gold with values of 150-200 colours per pan being tested from the mine cuts.

VANCOUVER CREEK

115P/14

Ken Pratt

63°44'N 137°05'W

Water Licence: PM99-111

2000, 2001, 2002

South McQuesten Placer Area

Site no. 149

OPERATION/LOCATION This is an exploratory mining operation on the upper reaches of Vancouver Creek. Access difficulties have limited mining activities.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION Travel trailers have served as the seasonal camp quarters. An Hitachi 077 excavator was used for material handling to a wash plant with 3-foot by 8-foot double screen decks and an oscillating sluice box 15 feet by 4 feet in size. Waste material was disposed of by a 50-foot conveyor assembly.

GROUND DESCRIPTION Minimal ground soils have been encountered throughout the mining. A false bedrock of blue clay has been reported in this mining operation with 6 feet of boulders and 2 feet of gravels reaching to a marginal topsoil layer at the surface. The blue clay layer was located 2 to 3 feet

above the bedrock. Pay values were found only in the vicinity of the clay layer.

MINING CUTS Access and property exploration was done in 2000 and 2001, with a section 250 feet by 100 feet by 15 feet deep stripped, which was mined by the 2002 season. This mining activity was done on the lower BJ claims.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Water was supplied by a Honda 4-inch sludge pump from the re-circulated groundwater in the mine cut and the operation had no stream discharge.

GOLD Gold values from the tested property were reported as granular fines. Quantities recovered were limited and no grade for the gold had been determined.

VANCOUVER CREEK

115P/14

John Wheelton

63°5'N 137°00'W

Water Licence: PM99-088

1999, 2000, 2001

South McQuesten Placer Area

Site no. 150

OPERATION/LOCATION This was an exploratory mining development and assessment program on the upper reaches of Vancouver Creek. Access difficulties limited the mining program and by 2001 the test program had not proven the ground and the licence was closed.

EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION The new access was constructed with a D-8 Caterpillar bulldozer and the test trenches were stripped



John Wheelton's operation on Vancouver Creek.

with the same equipment. Hand-testing pay gravels in the trenches was done to ascertain values and a drilling program with a 5-inch auger drill was done to supplement local knowledge for development of a mining program.

GROUND DESCRIPTION Near the valley walls, bedrock was found to be 8 to 12 feet deep and deepening to 30 to 40 feet in the valley center. Reworked glacial till materials were reported throughout the tested areas below 2 feet of topsoil.

MINING CUTS Mining activities consisted of a series of trenches to systematically prove the value of the property. Three

trenches were dug along the left limit of the drainage with two of these areas being stripped for potential mining. The two stripped areas were 300 feet by 200 feet and 100 feet by 200 feet and the bulldozer was used to sample from within these cuts.

WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT Ground water was used for the hand testing in the trenches.

GOLD No economic pay values were found in the testing program and all values recovered were described as flour. No gold grade was available for the limited values recovered.