Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

900224

Geology Section
200 Range Road
Whitehorse
Yukon
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Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

May 8, 1992

Shirley Abercrombie
Mining Development Officer
Energy and Mines Branch
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse
Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Dear Shirley

Mel Holloway has asked me to write a letter of support to accompany his application for a grant under your Prospector Assistance program. Please be assured that these comments are for your information only and are in no way intended to interfere with the administration of your program.

I have discussed Mel's proposal to carry out a bulk placer test on gravels in Matthew Creek with Steve Morison and we believe his proposal has technical merit, based on what we know of the bedrock geology, Quaternary geology and previous placer mining in the area.

I visited Mel Holloway's claims on Shootamook Creek and its tributary, Matthew Creek, in October, 1989, with geologists Larry Carlyle and Diane Emond. At the time, Oropex Minerals Ltd was evaluating the hard rock gold potential of the property with trenching, geochemistry and geophysics. This program established the presence of a gold-bearing structure which cuts a high-level rhyolite dome (see attached Minfile record).

Evidence of placer mining activity in the 1930's can be seen on the same creek as the main showing. This includes wooden flumes, the remains of a log dam, a sluice box and an old cabin (see field notes attached).

The placer potential of this area has never been systematically tested. The 1986-1989 work was directed toward the hard rock potential, but suggests a possible source for placer gold in the area. Steve Morison has mapped Quaternary gravels in the area and agrees that a bulk test is warranted.

Yours truly

T. J. Bremner

Trevor Bremner
Mineral Deposits Geologist

cc: R. Hill
S. Morison

Canada

YUKON MINFILE
STANDARD REPORT
CANADA YUKON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN - MINERAL RESOURCES SUBAGREEMENT

105B 045 SHOOTAMOOK
Other Names: (BULLDOMB, CARIBOO HORN)
Deposit Types: VEIN

NtsMaps: WOLF LAKE

Status: PROSPECT
Commodities: GOLD

Location: 60 46'57"N, 131 02'39"W

CAPSULE WORK HISTORY

Staked as Bulldomb, Cariboo Horn, etc cl (15693) in Apr/32 by Matthew Watson & Patsy Henderson, in conjunction with nearby placer activity. Restaked as Mathew cl (YA45137) in July/84 and Matt in Aug/85 by M. Holloway, who performed a geochem survey in 1985 and trenching in 1986 and transferred the property to Total Erickson Res L, which drilled in 1987. M. Holloway staked the Ron & Bud cl (YB10926) 2 km to the west in Jan/88 and surrounded the Mathew cl with Oro, Bran etc. (YB16507) in Jan 88 and Oct/89. Holloway's company Oropex Minerals Inc. performed additional trenching in 1988 and further trenching, detailed geochemical sampling and a VLF-EM survey in 1989. In 1989, construction was also begun on a 430 m airstrip. In Oct/91 the Mathew 1-6 and Matt 7-48 were transfered from Oropex Minerals Inc to Douglas Thomas.

CAPSULE GEOLOGY

Gold occurs in a silicified shear zone cutting a small high-level rhyolite-granite intrusion on Shootamook Creek. The circular plug has domed and silicified the surrounding metasedimentary rocks, which consist of lower Cambrian limestone and calcareous graphitic schist. Rhyolite dykes and sills, along with narrow veins of pyrite, pyrrhotite and chalcedonic quartz extend from the plug into silicified, sericite-altered wall rock.
Trenching on the main showing in 1988 and 1989 exposed a metre-wide zone of brecciated rhyolite and quartz vein material with a matrix of silicified gouge. Samples of this material have returned values as high as 6.65 g/t Au, and 5.2 g/t Au, 1.25% As. The zone strikes northeast and dips moderately to steeply northwest and appears to be a small displacement normal fault. Another silicified fault zone which extends from the showing through old placer workings to the southeast coincides with a 3000 m long VLF anomaly.
A second showing 213 m west of the main zone consists of an outcrop of sericite-altered rhyolite which returned assays up to 102.9 g/t Ag. Coincident VLF and arsenic soil anomalies were explored with a 40 m long trench in late 1989.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

YE, 1985-86, p.115
YMEO, 1989, p.7
ER, Jan/90 by L.N. Carlyle for Yukon Yellow Metal Expl. Ltd. - A.R. #092858

SUMMARY OF PROPERTY VISIT

INAC GEOLOGIST: T. Brenner, D. Enond
DATE: 3 October, 1989
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PROPERTY NAME: WIN
CLAIMS: MATTHEW 1-6, MATT 7-48, HUGH 1-48, ROW 1-48, BUD 1-48, SAM 1-48, SID 1-48
INAC PROPERTY #:
COMMODITIES: Au

NTS: 105 B 10, 11, 14, 15
LAT/LONG:
AIR PHOTOS #:

MINING COMPANY : Oroper Minerals Inc.
ADDRESS: #203-303 Jarvis St
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2H3

COMPANY GEOLOGIST:
TELEPHONE:
EST. PROGRAM COST: 150 000 - 200 000

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP DETAILS:
Oroper Minerals 100%, in 1988 property was optioned to Total Erickson who drilled 6 holes on the WINNIE showing along a 125m strike length.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALIZATION (Sketch map overleaf):
Gold occurs in a siliceous clay-altered shear zone cutting a small rhyolite stock which intrudes lower Cambrian limestone and limy graphitic schist. The showing coincides with old placer workings operated by Chief Billy Smith in the 1930's - a couple of old cabins exist by the airstrip and flumes, log dam and sluice box can be in the creek. The shear zone appears to be a small displacement fault downthrown to the east, which strikes 053° and dips 70-75°W.

1989 EXPLORATION PROGRAM (For drill programs include number of holes and total metres):
The hanging wall consists of clay-altered quartz-eye rhyolite The footwall consists of 3' of crushed black quartzite with quartz lenses up to 2 cm. Malachite occurs along fractures, and hematite and limonite occur in the footwall along with 1% pyrite and 1% arsenopyrite.
Folds in the area strike northeast.

RESULTS OF EXPLORATION:

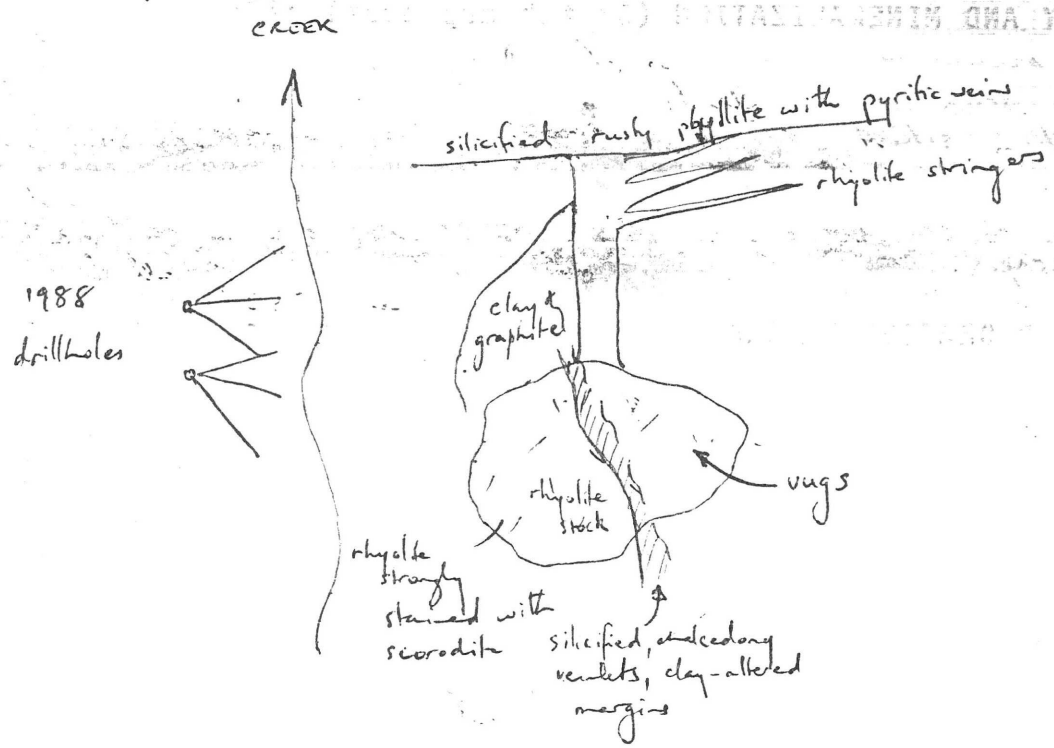
Highest values recorded to date are 0.194 opt Au across 1.1 ft in the north face of the test pit. A 1988 grab sample taken by Larry Carlyle assayed 0.153 opt Au and 1.28% As.

In 1989 most streams in the area were silt sampled and close-spaced soil samples were taken in the area of the showing, a total of 40 silt and 257 soils. Soil samples were taken on a small grid - 5 cross lines with sampling 20m apart. 2 days of mechanical trenching were done on the WINNIE showing, the MATT showing

was exposed by hydraulic stripping and a rough airstrip was constructed.

Examination of 1988 drill core showed ~~pyrite~~ immiscible sulfide blobs with iron carbonate haloes ~~believed to be the result of~~ in the intrusive rock.

In outcrop the intrusion ~~is~~ was coarser-grained in the middle and showed columnar jointing and coarse vesicles towards the outer margin. It appears to be very high level. It is capped by rusty black pyritic phyllite with veins of pyrite and minor pyrrhotite up to 5 cm thick ~~and~~ extending ~~into~~ outwards from the intrusion.



MER Holloway 633-2715

LOCATION ACCESS AND CLAIMS

The Yukon Yellow Metal Exp., Ltd., property is located in the Shootamook Creek area of NTS map sheet 105B - 14 in the Watson Lake mining district. Access to the property is by small fixed wing or helicopter. There is no road access to the property. (see maps in back of report) Shootamook Creek is a tributary of Scurvy Creek.

HISTORY

The property was mined in two different decades, the 1870's and the 1930's. Evidence of work can be found in the remains of log stuctures on the property as well as quotes from the book 'Names and Places' (page 236).

SCURVY CREEK 60°49'N 130°32'W (105-B). A tributary of the upper Liard River.

Gold was found here in the summer of 1874 by Cassiar miners working north from the Dease Lake country. The journey was arduous and some miners wintered on this and neighbouring creeks rather than face the difficult trip back to the Dease Lake country.

In the following winter at least four of these men died of scurvy and were buried near the mouth of the creek, on the banks of the Liard. The remaining men were saved by three of their number who walked to Laketon (on Dease Lake) in March 1875, for help. The Victoria *Colonist* of 21 July, 1875, carried a letter from McDame Creek;

"I think it my duty to notify you of the great suffering of the Deloire (Liard) pioneers from the scurvy. Four have died from the said disease and ten others had a narrow escape. The only thing that saved them was three of their number coming out on the ice and getting to Laketown on 12 March, to report the suffering that four of their number endured at the time of their leaving them, I may mention the date, 12 February. We all subscribed at Laketown, and in two days we dispatched one white man and an Indian with medicine, rum, vegetables, potatoes, lime-juice, vinegar, etc. which the sick men received in sixteen days. Those who got here on the 19th inst. state that only for what was sent from here more than half of the sick men would have perished. The four who died were ailing all winter and were too far gone by the time they received the medicines.... The unfortunate men have died easy deaths. They got frozen in with their boats on 25 October 1874."

Chief Billy Smith worked the property with his people for at least 4 seasons. The writer had the chance on 3 different occasions to talk with Chief Billy's son, Chief John Smith, who retired as chief in 1989. Chief John Smith wrote in the back of the book 'Names and Places' the family tree of his family.

Chief John Smith told the writer of this report;

"Dad first started to placer mine this area in the early 1930's. Mined the area about 4 to 5 years. John smith was 12 years old at the time when the Smith family and group got sick at Shootamook. Turburculosis epidemic was in the Yukon at the time. The men went to Teslin on spring snow (dogteam) buy white man's food, get white mans sickness. My dad buried the two oldest boys and two girls in two years. We all get sick and come out to Whitehorse. Two die in Whitehorse. Two die at Carcross (home of Chief Billy Smith)."

No further mining went on there till now. 1930's - 1991 - 50 some odd years the area has been forgotten. No records of work ever recorded.

SHOOTAMOOK CREEK 60°49'N 131°00'W (105-B). A tributary to Scurvy Creek.

Billy Smith, Chief of the Tagish Band and a trapper and prospector, found gold on this creek in 1936 and named it "Shomdenook" which means "Rising Up" and probably relates to an Indian legend of a mythical golden man.

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SKOOKUM JIM
MASON

UNCLE

Partners in one of the richest mines in Dawson city that is still going today.

PATSY HENDERSON (blind happen some time; museum in Car)

pop
BILLY SMITH (chief of Tagish Indian Band)

BROTHER

DAWSON CHARLIE → Killed on Carcross Bridge

JOHNIE SMITH – CHEIF of WHITEHORSE INDIAN BAND

WIFE
ANNIE

Johnnie Smith

Nov. 4, 1985

Skookum Jim (left Carmack BUILT RAFT) went to Dawson to see if sister all right. He was worried. Some bad white men. Went to Dawson and found sister. While waiting (HOT BECAUSE OF TRAVLING ON RAFT) walking around with George Carmack found the first flake of gold + ashed George what it was he had never seen it before (Tagish Charlie)

PRINTED IN CANADA

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ESTIMATING GOLD VALUES IN PLACERS

by Dave Parkhurst

The single, most important uestion to be answered when valuating a placer gold deposit ; "How much is it worth?"

Accurate sampling of placer avels is essential to obtain a asonable estimate of the tal gold values contained in e deposit. Because it is fficult to estimate a cubic rd of gravel, samples can be ken in units of one cubic foot. ue to the size of the samples, is advisable to take a large umber of samples over the tire placer area. A bulk test n of between 500 and 1,000 bic yards is the best method prove a placer deposit, but is is not always practical. herefore, to obtain a asonable estimate of the deposit's value by hand methods, a minimum of 10 to 20 samples should be taken, panned carefully, and the recovered gold values weighed separately.

Placers should be sampled from the top to the bottom of the gravels at several locations in the deposit. A box measuring 12x12x12 inches inside measurement can be constructed from wood to standardize the one cu. ft. samples, or a line can be drawn inside a bucket to represent this volume of gravel. All materials from the sampling area (including large rocks) should be taken in the sample. As the gold from each sample is weighed, its approximate value per cubic yard can be found in the accompanying Gold Chart.

Once the sample values have been obtained, they should all be totalled together and averaged. If one sample is exceptionally rich or poor, it can be discounted. If 2 or more are exceptionally rich or poor, they should be included in the average unless they all came from the same location. If one area shows rich or poor, it should be calculated separately.

Values in the table are calculated according to relative "fineness". Pure gold is 1000 fine, or 100%, and 850 fine gold is 85% gold. If you don't have an assay value for the placer gold, fineness can be approximated by the average fineness of the gold found in the same area. If not that use 850 fine until you know exactly.

ESTIMATING GOLD VALUES IN PLACER GRAVELS

Gold per Cu. Ft.			Value per Cu. Yd. in placer fineness						Gold
		penny							Troy Oz
Grns	grams	weight	700	750	800	850	900	950	Cu. Yd.
.1	.006	.004	$1.89	$2.03	$2.16	$2.30	$2.43	$2.56	.0067
.2	.012	.008	3.78	4.05	4.32	4.59	4.86	5.13	.0135
.3	.019	.012	5.67	6.08	6.48	6.89	7.29	7.69	.0202
.4	.025	.016	7.56	8.10	8.64	9.18	9.72	10.26	.0270
.5	.032	.020	9.45	10.15	10.80	11.47	12.15	12.83	.0336
.6	.038	.025	11.34	12.15	12.96	13.77	14.58	15.39	.0404
.7	.045	.029	13.23	14.17	15.12	16.06	17.01	17.95	.0472
.8	.051	.033	15.12	16.20	17.28	18.36	19.44	20.52	.0540
.9	.058	.037	17.01	18.23	19.44	20.65	21.87	23.08	.0607
1.0	.064	.041	18.90	20.25	21.60	22.95	24.30	25.65	.0675
2.0	.129	.083	37.80	40.50	43.20	45.90	48.60	51.30	.135
3.0	.194	.125	56.70	60.75	64.80	68.85	72.90	76.95	.202
4.0	.259	.166	75.60	81.00	86.40	91.80	97.20	102.60	.270
5.0	.324	.208	94.50	101.25	108.00	114.75	121.50	128.25	.336
6.0	.388	.25	113.40	121.50	129.60	137.70	145.80	153.90	.404
7.0	.453	.291	132.30	141.75	151.20	160.65	170.10	179.55	.472
8.0	.518	.333	151.20	162.00	172.80	183.60	194.40	205.20	.540
9.0	.583	.375	170.10	182.25	194.40	206.55	218.70	230.85	.607

To calculate values not shown: if sample weight is 2.6 grains, add amount shown in 2.0 row to amount shown in the .6 row. If weight is 20.7 grains, take 2 times the amount shown in the 9.0 row, and add this to the amounts shown in the 2.0 row and the .7 row.

CONVERSION FACTORS:

1 troy oz = 31.103 grams = 480 grains = 20 pennyweight = 1.097 oz. avoir.
1 grain = .0648 grams = .04167 pwt. = .00208 troy oz.
1 pennyweight = 1.55515 grams = 24 grains = .05 troy oz.
1 gram = 15.433 grains = .643 pwt. = .032 troy oz.

The Gold Chart is based on the amount of gold in 1 cubic foot of placer gravel. There are 27 cu. ft. in 1 cu. yd. of in place gravel. When gravel is loosened, however, it expands or "swells" by about 20%. This means there are approximately 32.4 cu. ft. of loose gravel in 1 cu. yd. of in place gravel. The chart takes this "swell" into account, and gives the dollar value for each cu. yd. of in place gravel. Remember you are taking the gold from a cubic foot to find the amount of gold in a cubic yard.

Because gold prices vary, the chart is based on a price of $400.00 per troy ounce. The dealer price is always below the market price for gold (which is sold at 995 fine or higher), so whatever this price happens to be, it can be converted to a percentage of the amount shown in the chart. For example, if gold is $420 per oz, add 5% of the amount shown in the table. If gold is $380 per oz, subtract 5% of the amount shown in the table. Never base placer gold value at the market price for gold, as this will artificially inflate the value of the placer deposit.

Keep in mind that the value obtained by use of this method is an estimate of the recoverable gold values contained in the placer deposit. If the estimate comes out too low, too high or marginal, then repeat the sampling procedure. If 2 or more sampling runs produce nearly the same results, it is a good indication that your estimates are reasonably accurate. END