

Tom Schwartz →

Windy Craggy

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**HISTORY OF WINDY CRAGGY
TATSHENSHINI RIVER AREA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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HISTORY OF WINDY CRAGGY

The Windy Craggy copper-gold-silver-cobalt volcanogenic massive sulphide deposit is located in northwestern British Columbia in the Tatshenshini map area (NTS 114P/12) where British Columbia joins Alaska and the Yukon. Access is by aircraft from Whitehorse, Yukon, which is approximately 200 kilometres to the northeast. The area is covered with numerous glaciers that mask geologic detail and hamper ground access.

The history and predevelopment of Windy Craggy has occurred over a period of some 33 years and remarkably the original geologist and discoverer (Jim McDougall) is still involved to some degree with the project. This deposit has a history of field geologists willing to take exploration and drilling risks that has resulted in additional mineralization discovered. It also has had personnel willing to take large financial risks in order to bring it to the predevelopment stage at present.

The history of Windy Craggy essentially starts in 1957 when Jim McDougall, a geologist with Ventures Limited and subsidiary companies Falconbridge, St. Eugene and Frobisher was involved with aerial prospecting and reconnaissance geological surveying of the rugged St. Elias mountain range between the Kennecott copper-rich deposits to the northwest and St. Eugene's Maid of Erin silver-copper mine near the Haines highway. The exploration targets were Triassic massive sulphide deposits within volcanic-sedimentary environments similar to that of Kennecott. The area was designated as "unmapped" at the time and the existing charts were essentially blank (see accompanying maps). In 1957, McDougall found evidence of such rocks by aerial and ground observation along the projected trend and drew up plans to investigate those sites accessible to float aircraft during the following season. At that time, most of the smaller lakes and glaciers were unnamed and little was known

of the geology. High level photography taken in the late 1940's was available but the resultant Interim Forest Survey maps were not released until 1959. Unfortunately, the flight line covering the Windy Craggy property was considerably offset and of little value until an eventual fill-in photographic survey many years later. Valuable information on the Tatshenshini area was supplied by Jim Robertson who placer mined and trapped along the river for four years during the 1930's. Robertson was later hired and spent 40 years working for the Falconbridge group under Alex Smith, including the position of foreman at the Maid of Erin mine, discovered in 1903 and purchased by St. Eugene as the Haines Military Road allowed vehicle access in 1942, and at the large Klukwan lode-placer iron deposit near Haines, Alaska.

In July, 1958, Jim McDougall and pilot-pro prospector Stan Bridcut landed a Piper Supercub and camped on an unnamed lake near the terminal moraine of an unnamed 12.9 km (8 mile) long glacier whose tributaries appeared to contain rock types related to the geological environment of interest. The lake was referred to as Tats Lake and the glacier as Tats Glacier (short for Tatshenshini). The moraines were prospected and mineralized boulders of volcanic and sedimentary origin were found both above and below the glacier. Initial follow-up work led to the "Tats showing" two miles to the north of Tats Lake, which was then staked. Further aerial reconnaissance along Tats Glacier led them to Windy Craggy mountain where a red gossanous creek had just broken through the winter snow cover. Prospectors Bill Wilkinson and Meade Hepler were sent out to investigate this area. A small fly camp was set up near Red Creek and as the snow melted, the prospectors discovered patches of copper-bearing sulphides immediately above the creek. On returning to the Tats Lake camp, a major earthquake of magnitude 7.5-7.8 (Richter scale) centred near Lituya Bay to the west severely shook the area but caused no visible damage except for sudden ice retreat at the base of most glaciers.

Fourteen two-post claims named the 'Windy' and 'Craggy' groups were staked following a visit to the discovery by Alex Smith, Western Exploration Manager. Limited by ice cover, surface sampling was undertaken followed by 12 short packsack diamond drilling holes including several through the ice in an effort to establish continuity along the partially exposed western margin of the main sulphide mass on the Windy claims.

1958?

Early geological mapping was done by Jim McDougall assisted by Mike Donahue and John Peterkin. Earl Dodson, Ernie Smith and Dave Kimball assisted with regional and some local exploration. Packsack drilling on the Windy showing along with two holes on the Tats copper showing were completed by Jim Robertson, John Schussler, Stan Bridcut and Gerry Davis. This was followed in 1965 by three BBS1 EX core size drill holes by Robertson and Schussler, one of which was drilled through the ice. Topographic and claim post surveying was carried out by Mark Brandon, then a B.C.L.S. candidate. Geophysical work (magnetometer, VLF-EM) was later undertaken by Steve Presunka and Karl Christensen. Expediting support was provided for many years by Dezadeash resident Bun Beloud and Haines resident Josephine Jurgeleit.

Years of work?

A short helicopter contract with Klondike Helicopters facilitated the 1958 work. During the 1959 season, Highland Helicopters, founded and managed by George Chamberlain with associate John Peterkin, received its first large contract with pilot Roy Hepworth carrying out the initial support work at Windy Craggy. In 1960, Frobisher-St. Eugene purchased the first of two successive newly introduced Hiller 12E helicopters piloted by Roy Hepworth. In the early 1970's, the second 12E was replaced by a new Hiller FH1100 turbine machine with Hepworth retained as company pilot succeeded by Ed Philips in 1974. Because of the privately owned helicopter, access to Windy Craggy proved far more reliable particularly in support of specific programs and continued exploration over the next 20-plus years.

?

Assessment work was continuously applied to the main property but several Craggy claims were dropped (ie. East Arm Glacier extension) due to lack of funds. However, McDougall generally found ^{carried out} an inexpensive survey, of some sort, ^{as} required to hold the remaining claims. In 1976, the claim expiry dates were put ahead for five years obtained via the "Portable Assessment Credit allowance" as applied for in a report by B.Downing and J.McDougall.

The remote property was not considered economically viable by the Ventures - Falconbridge group and the possibility of a large volcanogenic massive sulphide was not realized, nor was the possibility of a large degree of open pit mining with its reduced costs. Few people could conceive of a massive sulphide deposit in the mountains of British Columbia and the location was so remote that development would not occur for many years, if at all. The project continued to surface at annual Falconbridge budget meetings with program proposals receiving low priority as the corporate priority was nickel.

Commodity

In early 1980, Mr. Geddes Webster, an engineer who had been involved with the Falconbridge group earlier, contacted Mr. Stan Charteris, Canadian Exploration Manager, Toronto, as to the possibility of obtaining a property which would qualify under the stiff requirements of 'flow-through' share tax treatment then being considered more liberally for mining companies. Petroleum exploration companies were receiving such aid but only a few mineral exploration companies had been successful in obtaining the very limited funding through this program. Charteris suggested the Windy Craggy property which Webster followed through on, receiving approval for upgraded 'flow through funding' via his new company 'Geddes Resources Limited' (GRL).

The first joint-venture work using this funding included drilling and airborne surveying and was directed by McDougall assisted by Don Hoy in 1981. Pat Heenan represented Geddes Resources Limited which later (1983) took over 100% of the

*Now
East Arm
VMS
project?
relatively*

Falconbridge holdings subject to a net proceeds interest arrangement. Windy Craggy Exploration Ltd. was formed as a private company to administer the Falconbridge interest including a small remaining percentage allotted the original prospecting participants.

Drill core "pulp" from earlier drilling and stored in the Falconbridge warehouse in Vancouver were re-assayed in 1980-81 for Cu, Co, Au, and Ag, and were also subjected to mineralogical studies and metallurgical bench tests at Falconbridge's Thornhill and Lakefield facilities. Reasonable recovery was obtained despite some oxidation which had occurred over a 15 year interval. Bulk test work carried out later continued to yield satisfactory results.

In 1982 and 1983, major joint venture exploratory drill programs were continued, also supervised by Falconbridge (Terry Chandler). The program also included 360 line km of Dighem III surveys, geological mapping and sampling of the north cliff area plus reconnaissance mapping of the expanded claim holdings. Three holes, #9, #11 and #12, were completed in 1982 and 9 holes (#13 to #21) were drilled in 1983 for a total of 18,059 feet. Hole #14 obtained a significant gold intersection. (detail)

During 1984 and 1985, very little work was done, except for construction of an ^{length?} airstrip ^{gravel} in 1985 by contract arrangement with the Northair Mines group. This no doubt reflected the difficulty in raising financing during this period.

In 1986, Dr. Joe Fox from McGill University was retained by GRL to carry out a ^{detailed} study of the drill core. This included reconnaissance logging of the core available in Vancouver, chemical analysis of core not previously sampled, spectral analysis and metallurgical testing of selected samples, and reinterpretation of all data with special attention being given to the gold content and distribution, which appeared at that time to be significant in the

TATSHENSHINI AREA

Between 1957 and 1965, exploration by the Ventures-Falconbridge group discovered at least 100 in-place and float occurrences of significant mineralization in addition to Windy Craggy. Unfortunately, the more interesting of these consist largely of scattered float whose source has yet to be located. Several coal and high-grade gypsum deposits were also discovered, one of the latter of which may be close to development. Regional exploration was activated again by Geddes Resources Limited in 1989 and 1990 under the direction of J.McDougall with several new occurrences located.

The Tatshenshini area was initially prospected for placer gold near the turn of the century when a little was found along the Tatshenshini River itself by miners heading for, or leaving, the Klondike. The most active area was the Squaw Creek tributary in the north where operations have persisted to the present. Small amounts were reported found near the headwaters of the Tatshenshini and in some of the creeks along the course of the highway which now runs to Haines, Alaska. Placer operations still persist in the once important "Porcupine" field near the highway immediately south of the border in Alaska - an area once thought to be within British Columbia but lost to the more vociferous Americans who reportedly 're-installed' the original Russian-Canadian monuments such as one later found by Jim McDougall's crew to be well within present day Alaska. In the southern Dezadeash area immediately north of the B.C.-Yukon border, interesting placer gold occurrences were worked in the Onion Creek (Frank Younge) and Mush Lake (Bun Beloud) sections now included in Kluane National Park.

Lode properties discovered around 1900 in the 'Rainy Hollow' area of the southern Tatshenshini map sheet included the high grade silver-copper bearing 'Maid of Erin' mine which shipped ore to Haines via a wagon road constructed for this purpose. Additional ore was shipped by St. Eugene Mining Corp. in 1954. Other prospects

included the 'Three Guardsmen' copper-iron showing, a porphyry copper property test- drilled by Canex Placer in 1972, and several other showings along the Haines Road.

In the Parton River area, a few silver-lead-zinc properties are known, one of which, the 'Humbird' located approximately 5 miles east of the Tatshenshini, was test drilled in the late 1960's by Ronex Explorations. These properties occur along the first half of the proposed road route to Windy Craggy. In 1977, Yukanda Mines Ltd. built 32 km of access road southwest from the Haines road, and an airstrip (now called the Carmine strip) was constructed at the end of the road on Shini Creek (approximately 38 km east of Windy Craggy). Noranda test drilled an interesting gold prospect about 14 miles northeast of the airstrip (the Bar) which is presently under active exploration by Goldbank Ventures. A cat road was constructed along Jarvis Glacier in Alaska to allow testing of a gold vein on Mt. McDonnell. A high grade gypsum deposit (O'Connor Gypsum) now owned by Felix Reyes was initially discovered by Stan Bridcut and McDougall in 1957 on the O'Connor River. From 1981 to 1983, Falconbridge explored and drill tested the Maid of Erin property.

Active exploration along the Tatshenshini River valley area in the mid 1970's included that by a department of Swiss Aluminium which concentrated its search for the source of the numerous mineralized boulders occurring along the upper drainage of Henshi Creek below the East Arm of Frobisher Glacier. This work indicated a large magnetic anomaly under the glacier. The area was restaked by St. Joe Minerals in early 1982 under the direction of Dave Kennedy. Later work on their claims in 1986 by St. Joe and Newmont Exploration of Canada confirmed the presence, under nearly 1200 feet of ice, of Windy Craggy type mineralization. However, difficult drilling conditions have prevented definition of the deposit to this date. Some high grade gold values (up to 2 oz/ton) were obtained on the mountain above the anomaly but attempts by

Bond Gold (successor to St. Joe and acquirer of Newmont's joint venture interest) to test-drill the zone in 1989 were generally unsuccessful, also due largely to drilling conditions. Swiss Aluminium also discovered a molybdenite occurrence near Tarr Inlet which was later test drilled by Noranda. United Keno Hill explored part of the central Tatshenshini area in the late 1980's. Stryker Resources spent considerable effort on claims southwest of the Maid of Erin optioned from John Ball; mostly in an unsuccessful attempt to locate the main source of numerous zinc-rich boulders which is probably under a thin but much crevassed ice cap. The zinc zone, believed to occur also on the Alaskan side of the nearby border, was test-drilled unsuccessfully by Kennecott Copper. ^{in 1984} A large barite deposit occurs south of the latter. Stryker also test drilled two copper-silver-zinc prospects.



in the area around Mt. Clay where the geology is getting similar to that of Windy Craggy, some 75 km to the NW.

(Haines barite, on the American side of the border.)

The Tatshenshini area (NTS 114P mapsheet) still remains unmapped in any detail by government geological surveys. The Geological Survey of Canada commenced '4 mile' regional mapping of the Tatshenshini map sheet in the late 1970's conducted by R. Campbell and Chris Dodds. The B.C. Geological Survey has published several accounts of the local Windy Craggy area since 1981. A Ph.D. thesis by Jan Peter (University of Toronto, 1991) describes the Windy Craggy occurrence in detail with emphasis on the origin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Several people have contributed to the history:

- J.J.McDougall
- B.W.Downing
- T.Chandler
- Doug Little

TOPOGRAPHIC LANDMARKS

Many of the local topographical landmarks in the Windy Craggy area used in current reports have been named by the workers involved with the project but have not been officially registered. Several topographic names in the immediate and local area have been registered as a result of earlier exploration by McDougall whose overall base map included some 80 'in-house' names for unmapped topographic features encountered during exploration in the St. Elias area. Fossil localities plotted on this base map and forwarded to the Geological Survey of Canada had aroused some interest in this little known area and the Geographic Names Board suggested and authorized adoption of up to 60 of the more suitable names. Those given to some topographic features in the Tats area include:

Windy -	windy when staked
Craggy -	very rugged topography
Tats Lake -	shortened form of Tatshenshini River
Tats Glacier -	"
Tats Creek -	"
Noisy Valley -	wind coming down the valley and glacial fed water falls sounded like jet engines
Noisy Range -	" "
Supercub Lake -	landed the first Supercub there in 1958
Frobisher Glacier -	Frobisher Limited was a wartime subsidiary of Ventures Ltd. responsible for funding a portion of the early exploration costs
East Arm Glacier -	related to Frobisher Glacier
Turnback Canyon -	original attempts to reach the Klondike via boat in 1897-98 were thwarted by swift water encountered on the Alsek River and caused by advance of a large glacier referred to as 'ZigZag' Glacier and later named 'Tweedsmuir'.

One of the more interesting names was 'Icehole Lake' which later (by mistake) turned out to be in Alaska and is now permanent on the US air navigation charts.

Local names assigned to other topographic features by recent workers include:

Aunteater Glacier -	(M.P. Webster 1987)
Brach Glacier -	brachiopod showing found on north ridge (MPW)
Marie Glacier -	surveyor's girlfriend
Papillon Glacier -	?
Pillow Glacier -	several outcrops of volcanic pillows (MPW, 1987)
Sirocco Glacier -	?

PERSONNEL

Personnel involved with the Windy Craggy field project are listed below:

GEOLOGICAL

1957 - 1980 J.McDougall, Alex Smith

1981: J.McDougall : project supervisor
Don Hoy : geologist
Pat Heenan: GRL co-ordinator
John Wilson: claim staking

1982: Terry Chandler: project geologist, Falconbridge Limited,
John Gammon Exploration Manager Falconbridge Limited.
Dennis Prince & Dihedral Explorations : regional &
property mapping
Tom Heah: geologist
Gunner Thomassen: surveying and claim staking
Peter Andexer: survey assistant

1983: Terry Chandler: project geologist (Falconbridge Limited),
Shelly Lear: geologist
Jeff Clarke: Geologist

1984: none

1985: none

1986: Dr. Joe Fox: geological consultant

1987: Norm Berg: geologist, underground exploration until late 1987
Rob Beckett: project geologist taking over from N.Berg
John Ricker: geologist, surface mapping
Mary Webster: geologist, surface mapping
Jan Peter: geologist - thesis research

1988: Rob Beckett: project-consultant geologist
Nick Callan : geologist
Mary Webster: geologist

1989: Rob Beckett: project-consultant geologist (January-June)
Bruce Downing: project geologist (July-December)
Nick Callan : geologist
Mary Webster: geologist

1990: Rob Beckett: consultant geologist
Bruce Downing: project geologist
Nick Callan : geologist (January-February)
Diane Lister: geologist (March-December)
Mary Webster: geologist

1991: Bruce Downing: project geologist (January - October)
Diane Lister: geologist (January - August)

PRESIDENTS

1981 - 1987 Geddes Webster
1987 - 1989 Doug Little
1989 - present Gerald Harper

VICE PRESIDENT

1984 - Pat Heenan
1990 - present Keith Somerville

PROJECT MANAGER

1988 - 1990 Bill Hales
1990 - 1991 Phil Claridge

MANAGER of ADMINISTRATION

1988 - 1991 Doug Hagenson

SITE SUPERINTENDENT

1987-1990 Kurt Dahlke

SYNOPSIS

EXPLORATION HISTORY - WINDY CRAGGY PROJECT

- 1957 - 1958 Windy Craggy discovered and staked by a small group led by J.J.McDougall, Ventures - Frobisher - St. Eugene Ltd.
- 1959 - 1980 Prospecting, mapping, geophysical surveys and limited drilling, Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. via absorption of Ventures Ltd.
1958 - 5 packsack holes totalling 305 feet
1960 - 14 packsack holes totalling 567 feet
1965 - 3 AX holes totalling 1194 feet
- 3 packsack holes totalling 50 feet
- 1981 - Joint Venture between Falconbridge Ltd. and Geddes Resources Ltd.
Major exploration program; drilling (8,337 feet in 10 holes, DDH 1 to 10 - DDH 9 was abandoned due to drilling problems); Dighem II airborne geophysical survey (June); geological mapping
- 1982 - Diamond drilling (4,472 feet in 3 holes, DDH 9, 11 & 12 : DDH 9 was redrilled)
- 1983 - Diamond drilling (13,587 feet in 9 holes, DDH 13 to 21), DDH 83-14 intersects 201 feet of 0.30 oz/t gold;
geological mapping; Dighem III airborne geophysical survey (July, 360 line km)
- Revision of JV whereby Geddes acquired 100 % interest subject to 22.5 % NPI to Falconbridge Ltd.

- 1984 - No work performed.
- 1985 - Construction of 3,000 foot airstrip and 6 1/2 mile glacier road from camp to portal
- 1986 - Data analysis by Dr. Joe Fox
No field work performed at Windy Craggy
Tats Showing (work performed on WC 14 mineral claim): diamond drilling (120 ft in 4 EX holes)
- 1987 - Construction of portal (Tonto Mining); adit driven 4,279 feet;
Diamond drilling (1,927 ft in 2 holes, DDH 22 & 23)
Tats Showing: geological mapping, trenching, diamond drilling (1,136 ft in 4 holes)
- 1988 - Adits, North & South drifts and South cross cut (9877N) totalling 4,836 feet. Tonto completed the main adit and initiated legs of the North and South Drifts in early 1988, then moved off site prior to start of diamond drilling in May. In the fall, when drifts needed extensions and the South Zone warranted bulk sampling via the South Cross Cut, Mainstreet Mining was awarded the contract.
(at January 31/88 - 5,162 feet (1573.5 m) of tunnelling had been completed in the main adit)
Diamond drilling: 57,279 feet in 53 holes;
DDH 24 to 76 (all underground)
Bulk sampling: South Cross Cut - October (40,000 lbs)
Bulk sampling: South Cross Cut - November (approx 1,100 lbs)

1989 - Extension of North drift to breakout and tunnelling of North Cross Cut (10570N) totalling 4,464 feet by Mainstreet Mining
Diamond drilling: 76,389 feet in 74 holes;
 DDH 77 to 150
 - underground (70,802 feet in 68 holes)
 - surface (5,587 feet in 8 holes)
Geotechnical overburden drilling: 415 feet in 4 holes, B1 to 4.
Bulk sampling: North Cross Cut - October (364,935 lbs)
Bulk sampling: North Cross Cut - December (34,000 lbs)
Bulk sampling: limestone tests (75 lbs)
Metallurgical, engineering and environmental studies

1990 - Adits and drifts (none)
Diamond drilling: 46,728.9 feet in 43 holes;
 DDH 151 to 187, NV1&2, L1 to L5.
 - underground (30,582 feet in 26 holes)
 - surface (16,147 feet in 14 holes)
 - geotechnical (1,033 feet in 2 holes)
 - limestone (2,238 feet in 5 holes)
Geotechnical drilling: 5,470 feet in 19 holes;
 B5 to B17 and GB1 to 6.
 - overburden (1,976 feet in 13 holes)
 - glacial (3,494 feet in 6 holes)
Bulk sampling: metallurgical (4,490 lbs)
Bulk sampling: column leach tests (33,665 lbs)
Bulk sampling: limestone tests (600 lbs)
Metallurgical, engineering and environmental studies

1991 - Geostatistical reserve & waste rock estimate study; data analysis & technical reports; Windy Craggy history compiled & written. No summer program. Geological and administrative staff laid off.

TATSHENSHINI VALLEY

Early History

(J.J. McDougall, 1991)

I am only familiar with the Tatshenshini Valley in the post-1950 time frame. What little early information I have has come from old timers, mostly now deceased, and prospectors who placer mined near the Tatshenshini River in the mid to late 1930's.

The name Tatshenshini is a Tlingit native word meaning "place where the salmon run".

SOURCES:

1) **Jim Kane** (Deceased)

- Indian whom I met in the early 1950's at Dezadeash. He had the only trapline on the Tatshenshini that we are aware of.

2) **Bun Beloud** (Deceased)

- Built and ran Dezadeash Lodge in the early 1940's as the road was built from Haines to Haines Junction. His wife is still alive but probably knows very little about history.

3) **Josephine Jurgeleit**

- Lives in Haines, Alaska. She has a good grasp of locals and still prospects the Porcupine Placer and visits Squaw Creek occasionally. Inclined to mix some "hearsay" fiction with facts but a good person to contact.

I think that the older Klukwan Indians in Alaska know more about the more southerly area than do the remaining young kids of the Aishihiks. Jo Jurgeleit knew a Mrs. Donnelly (probably deceased) and perhaps others in Klukwan Village who related the story of early trips to the section of the proposed road route of interest. This area was probably totally ignored by the northern natives. Several stories were related to Jim Robertson who trapped and sluiced for gold near and on the river in the mid to late 1930's. There is also some historical data recorded in Haines, Alaska -- probably more than in the Yukon. In the Haines museum, there is an original map drawn by a native showing the very early trails from Haines to the Yukon.

4) **Jim Robertson**

- Lives in White Rock. Introduced me to some of the Indians, including Jimmy Kane, whom he met while carrying out the placer mining referred to above. His recollections are attached.

5) **Dr. Ed Kindle**

- Federal government Geologist (now retired in Ottawa) who explored part of the area in the late 1940's (Dezadeash Memoir). His writing should be examined in light of studies carried out regarding ages of ice retreat, damming, etc. Many of the Tatshenshini tributaries were ice clogged not too many years ago and certainly would have been avoided by native or non-native skirting the area during the preceding 100,000 years. reference: Geological Survey of Canada Memoir 268, 1952, Dezadeash Map Area, Yukon Territory.

6) Gordon ---

- Now in Whitehorse. A late comer dating back to the 1960's when he bought the Dezadeash Lodge from Mr. Beloud but there were still a few natives around then who may have related tales overheard from their elders.

Personal Investigations

I directed many thousands of man days exploring on the ground, and hundreds of helicopter hours surveying from the air, the Tatshenshini area during the 4-year period following 1957 and sporadically to present. Most of the area was investigated, including all tributary creeks and their mouths, and all glaciers and lakes as well as suggestive archaeological sites. After many hours of searching, we discovered the remains of an old prospectors cabin dating back to 1897-1898 along the proposed road route west of the river, finding an earlier Klukwan Indian tale -- involving buried gold pokes, guns, etc. -- to be astonishing accurate; we made a 15-minute, ~~16mm~~ movie involving it. I later sent in 2 prospectors for several days to examine possible gold-bearing gravels along much of the road route as now proposed, interest being generated by the pokes and a hand made wooden wheelbarrow at the caved cabin. The west bank of the river remains very game deficient (unlike the east side) and why any native would visit there except possibly to trap on rare occasions evades me. However, there are several small clearings, now covered by the tall grass prevalent in the area and resembling that around the cabin we found, that other camping sites may exist and the clearings should be checked.

Several old cabins were found along the river; one opposite Squaw Creek, the O'Connor area one described, and one at the mouth of 98'er Creek. The only other sign of human habitation I or any of our men found in the area was a rusted sardine can at Tats Lake

(1958) in an area that would not interest any native since there are no fish but probably interested someone poaching grizzly bears such as was done by Americans over the years, particularly along the Alsek flats to the south.

Jim Robertson's Recollections

Jim Robertson, later a Falconbridge employee for about 40 years, has perhaps the only remaining authentic non-native recollection of the Tatshenshini area. Jim, with a sleigh and 600 pounds of provisions, went into Dalton Post and Squaw Creek in 1935 after 3 weeks of travel from the end of the road at "42 mile" in Alaska. He spent the winters of 1935 through 1938 trapping and the summers placer mining at Squaw Creek across the Tatshenshini a few miles south of Dalton Post. Gold had been discovered at Squaw Creek by the four Kane brothers (including Jimmy and Johnny) and other Indians Jim Fred and Paddy Duncan (who later shot one of the brothers in a quarrel). About 20 Indians who owned and sold many horses and 36 white men were camped at Squaw Creek -- the Indians working the "Discovery Claims". One of the Indians, Johnny Fraser, shot moose along the Tatshenshini for the white men under special license. Scotty John was another Indian Robertson was acquainted with.

Dalton Post was named after Jack Dalton, a "dollar scheming" trader and packer working between Haines, Alaska and the Yukon. Some of his history is posted in Haines at the museum and in the Ferry Terminal. The Post, at the Junction of Klukshu Creek with the Tatshenshini, had been used by the Indians, who lived on a more permanent basis at Champagne or at Klukshu Village up the creek flowing from the north and nearer Dezadeash, where fresher, less battered, sockeye salmon were present when water conditions allowed fish migration. The fresher fish were dried for human food and the rest for dog food. When Dalton arrived, he "sold" most of the

Indians their names, thus many "family trees" involved are very limited in time.

Dalton Post had a sub-mining recorder, Frances Muncaster and husband Bill, who later moved to Haines. A custom officer was also present for awhile. Jim Pringle, an ex-Mountie, and daughter Hazel also lived at Dalton. Police would occasionally wreck the wooden weirs (fish traps) at Dalton as the total number of fish using the Tatshenshini was, and still is, very limited.

Jimmy Kane had the only trapping license in the area and his ground stretched from Squaw Creek to the Alaska border. Several trips were made using sleighs during the winter on the upper portion of the Tatshenshini line and a few wolves, coyotes, foxes, etc. were taken. Little, if any, river travel was attempted the rest of the year as the Indians were terrified of the water, although it seldom bothered the white men who travelled on occasion -- a few as early as the Klondike Gold Rush.

The Klukwan Indians (the Chilkat) from Alaska invaded the Tatshenshini Valley, probably via the very difficult O'Connor route or the easier but longer Parton route, for bear grease (fat) when oolican runs (a source of oil) in their own area temporarily dried up. Encampments would be so minor as to leave very little present day evidence but, if any, would be expected in the O'Connor - Tatshenshini junction area -- probably on the east bank where bear would gather to catch the odd salmon. It has been noted that migrating fish prefer rare stretches of clear water entering the river from short, non-glacial streams and there are a few such in this area. One or two may be used for spawning.

Neither the semi-permanently silty or muddy, glacial and "braided" Tatshenshini nor most of its tributaries offer little suitable spawning ground.

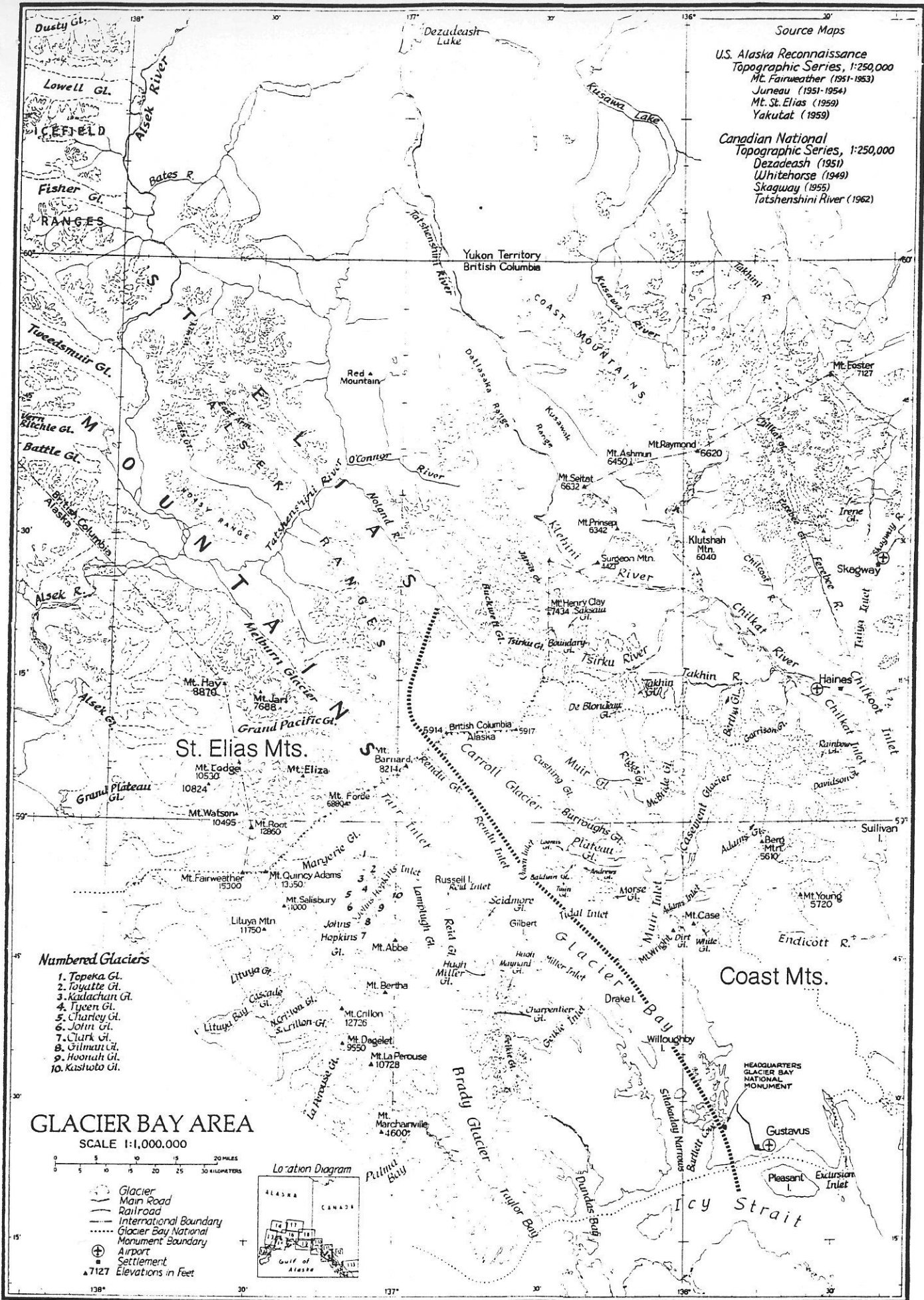
In the post Highway (+1942) years, "newcomers", such as Roy Backe who may still be in Haines Junction, may remember some related history.

For present day contacts in the Haines area, Josephine Jurgeleit (Ph: (907) 766-2280) is the best bet along with Jim Robertson, especially due to local Indian contacts in the 1930's (Ph: (604) 535-0051). the few people now living along the Haines Road, a few miles south of the Yukon border, may have encountered Indian signs while trapping during the last few years.

Source Maps

U.S. Alaska Reconnaissance
Topographic Series, 1:250,000
Mt. Fairweather (1951-1953)
Juneau (1951-1954)
Mt. St. Elias (1959)
Yakutat (1959)

Canadian National
Topographic Series, 1:250,000
Dezadeash (1951)
Whitehorse (1949)
Skagway (1955)
Tatshenshini River (1962)

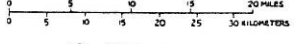


Numbered Glaciers

1. Topeka Gl.
2. Toyette Gl.
3. Kadachan Gl.
4. Tyceen Gl.
5. Charley Gl.
6. John Gl.
7. Clark Gl.
8. Gilman Gl.
9. Hoonah Gl.
10. Kashioto Gl.

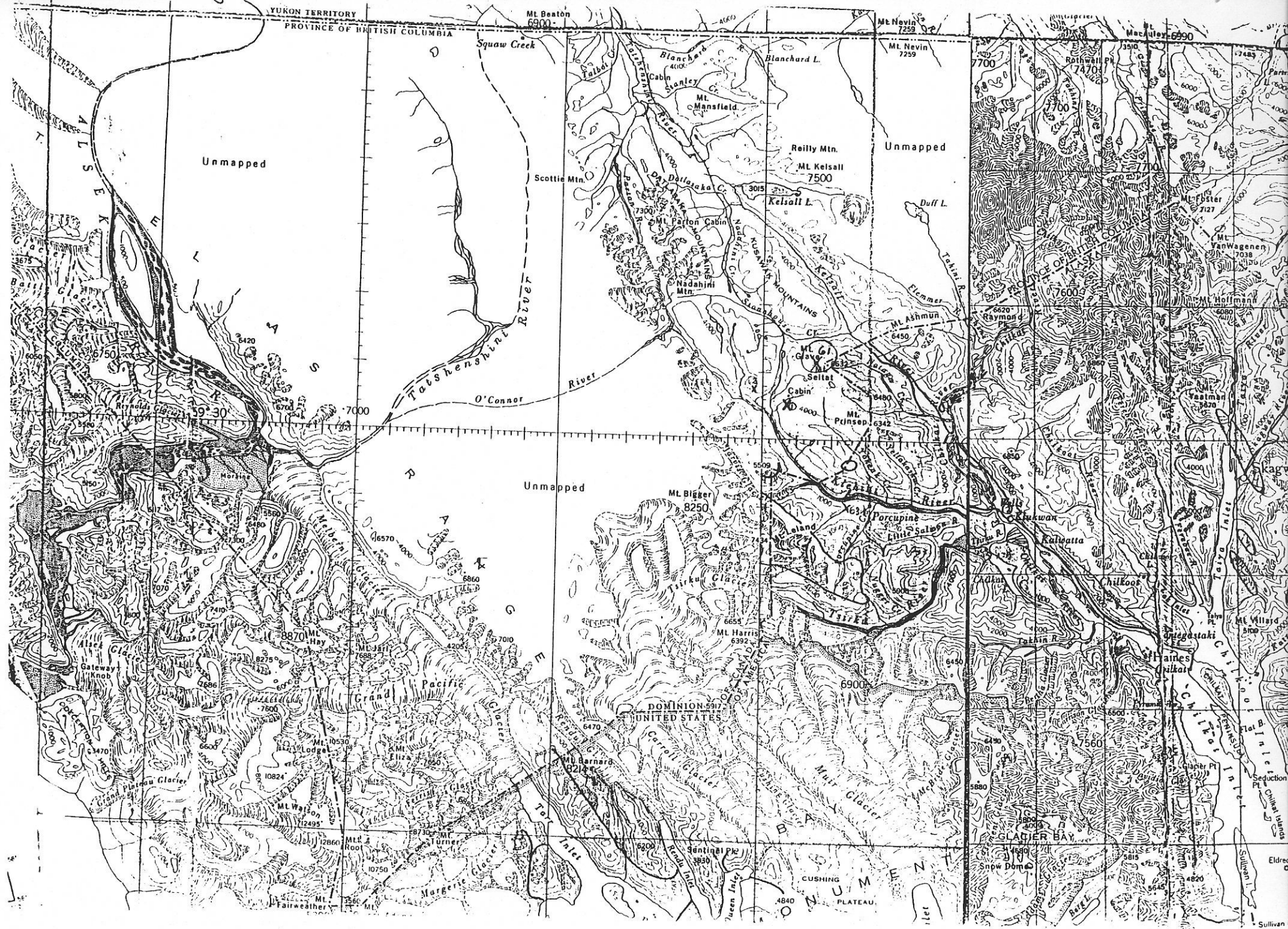
GLACIER BAY AREA

SCALE 1:1,000,000



- Glacier
- Main Road
- Railroad
- International Boundary
- Glacier Bay National Monument Boundary
- Airport
- Settlement
- Elevations in feet





YUKON TERRITORY
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mt. Beaton
6900

Mt. Nevin
7259

MacAuley
6990

Unmapped

Unmapped

Unmapped

DOMINION
UNITED STATES

CUSHING
PLATEAU

GLACIER BAY

Sullivan

