

Historic Sites

"COPPER MINE AT CAPE D'OR"

By Dick Akerman

When Samuel De Champlain explored the Bay Of Fundy coastline in the early 1600's, he named the rocky point on the north shore of the bay, between today's Advocate Harbor and Spencer's Island "Cape d'Or, or Gold Cape" because of the shining outcrops of rock on the cliff face. This was not gold, but deposits of pure copper. The local aboriginals had long been aware of this mineral, found there in

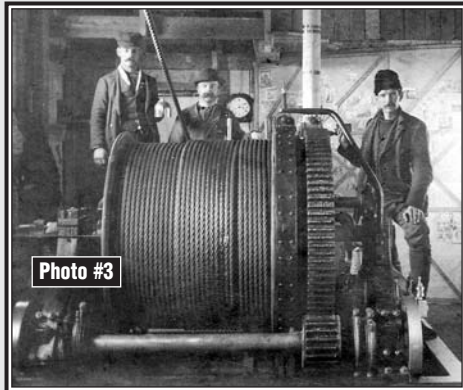
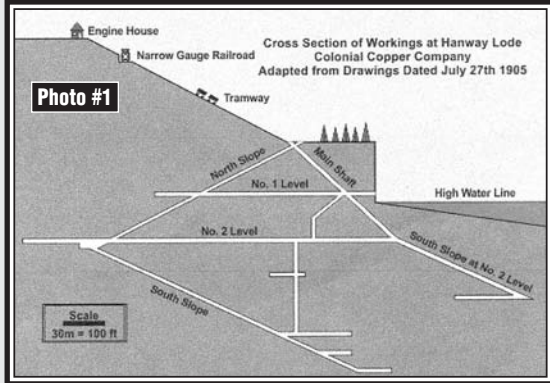
great quantities and in a pure state. They used it to produce tools and spear heads. It was nearly three hundred years before an attempt was made to mine the copper commercially.

The arrow pointer on C.F Church's 1876 map (not shown) of Cumberland County locates the area, in today's Horseshoe Cove, that in 1897 the Colonial Copper Company, based in New York City, invested millions of dollars in developing mining operations on the

site. Since good, all season roads did not exist, the first thing constructed was a wharf. By 1900, three different areas were being worked on, Number One Works, Bennet Brook, and the third major area being the Hanway Workings, which consisted of two inclined shafts, with connecting drifts, a total of more than two hundred and fifty meters of shafts and tunnels were dug (still existing), one of which still may be seen exiting on the basalt cliff face south of the shafts. Material and men were moved up and down from the underground workings by means of an inclined tram way, powered by a steam operated drum winch. The three separate mine workings were connected to the crushing and concentrating plant by a narrow gauge railroad, on which small ore cars were moved with a small steam locomotive. The mine complex, in addition to the three workings and the processing plant, consisted of offices, assay lab, miner's homes, a boarding house and a lodge. All built in a time span of ten years, 1897 to 1907.

Photo #1 shows a schematic side view of the Hanway workings, showing the levels and slopes, with the incline tramway on the upper slope, and the engine or winch house at the very top. Photo #2 is a picture taken at the top of the incline, with the cable coming out of the engine house going to the tramway cars, with the narrow gauge railroad, complete with ore cars and steam engine, between the head frame and the winch house. Photo # 3 is a photo taken into the open end of the winch house, showing the steam powered drum winch. The workmen shown around the winch were all from the Debert/ Belmont area.

This is a very interesting story, and if any shoreline reader has anything to add, please contact the editor at maurice@theshoreline-journal.com so that this story can perhaps be expanded.



From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.



So we gotta little snow! No worries! (Harrington Photo)

Tourism Nova Scotia, a Crown Corporation

Government is transforming the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency into a private-sector-led Crown corporation. Effective (today) April 1, the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency will transform into Tourism Nova Scotia. The new Crown corporation will be more nimble in its decision making, allowing the tourism industry to keep pace with trends and opportunities to be more competitive and drive economic growth.

Tourism agency employees will transfer to

the new Crown corporation. Legislation to create Tourism Nova Scotia will be introduced during this sitting of the legislature. Tourism Nova Scotia will be led by a private-sector board, chaired by Ben Cowan-Dewar. Mr. Cowan-Dewar is the owner of Cabot Links and Cabot Cliffs in Inverness. The board is made up of business owners and leaders from across the province. Patrick Sullivan will continue to serve as C.E.O.



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