



Copper Mining #4 - Smelter

## Copper Mining in Wentworth

By Hope Bridgewater

Once again the copper mining "boom" in Wentworth from 1901 to 1906 can come alive with words and photos although all physical evidence of the operations have disappeared except for those who remember only locations and except for the millstones at my door entrances and yard placed there by the Ogilvies (Tom and Peter) who built this house. They owned the MacLean-Ogilvie Grist Mill and Dam once located at the back of this house when they owned it.

This time words come from files of the past and oral history and the photos taken at the time. With this third column about the short life of copper mining in Wentworth, I have four photos and facts associated with them to bring this time alive again.

**Photo #1.** The Feeley Copper Mine was on property owned at that time by John Feeley in Lower Wentworth. The mine was located on the Wallace River bank. The copper ore was lifted up the river bank and then taken by horse and wagon or sled up along the Wallace River for almost two miles to the copper Smelter at Wentworth Centre behind my present house. At the Smelter, workers would break up the ore and smelt it into copper. Of the two mines in Wentworth, the Feeley Mine was the largest. In 2017, Feeley descendants know where the mine was located, but otherwise there is no physical sign of the mine. As for the Smelter, there is no sign of it and all is buried under bushes and trees.

**Photos #2 & #3.** The Palmer Mine located in West Wentworth next to the Wal-

lace River also shows no physical signs of being there and all that is remembered is the location. I phoned a former West Wentworth resident in Truro and she said her son remembers the location as he fishes on the river. One photo of the Palmer Mine shows the general scene of the mine's location along the Wallace river and the other photo shows the entrance to the Palmer Mine. The copper mining "boom" came to a sudden, unexpected end for the miners in 1906 and several (probably all) miners never received money owed to them.

**Photo #4.** A photo was taken in 1930 of the Smelter in ruins, twenty-four years after it closed. When I was growing up, I remember going down to the Smelter and it had no roofs left, but it still had planks, seating, and other signs of a work place. In 2016, I had a friend my age visit, she had lived next door. We were in the same grade in the one-room school and walked to school together. We remembered early playing days and what came up in the telling? The Smelter came up and how we spent a long time there playing "kitchen." We made plenty of mud pies and other mud food. We also went down there to have a picnic with real food. In that way the Smelter continued to be part of our lives and older people would tell us oral history about the past copper mining. Now all that is gone and there is nothing but grass, bushes and trees. I have one more column to do about the Crown Copper Hotel and how it continued to be important socially and economically in Wentworth after it closed as a mining hotel.

See part 2 on page 28

## Renovations Completed at Colchester RCMP



A \$11 million expansion/renovation included this addition to the Colchester District RCMP detachment.

By Linda Harrington

It is much easier to get any job done when you have the right tools and a suitable space to use them and this is especially true for members of our RCMP force. Local media were recently given a tour of the new \$11 million expansion/renovations at the Colchester District RCMP detachment in Bible Hill by Staff Sgt. Allan Carroll.

The bright new complex allows for all RCMP functions to be housed in one place, bringing back members from extension areas at the former Agritech park location. There are currently 65 staff members onsite, compared to the 30-40 working out of the former location.

Staff Sgt. Carroll says it was logistically challenging to complete these renovations, which were built around the existing structure, while continuing to offer day to day services. The end result was certainly worth any inconvenience.

The new facility offers each RCMP section their own work space in addition shared areas such as the bright new board room, victims room, soft interview room, a sound proof project room for special investigations and a secure bay for transfer of prisoners right from patrol cars to processing.

Staff Sgt. Carroll is pleased with the four rooms dedicated to the new Truth Verification Section. He says they offer the

only polygraph service in North Eastern NS, which also services Newfoundland and Northern Canada at times.

The Ident Section now has a much larger space, with three Ident personnel on staff and a fully serviced garage bay devoted to processing vehicles of crime. Sgt. Darlene McEachern, of the Truro Forensic Identification Section explained the procedure for processing evidence from crime scenes and the use of various equipment, including lasers and dyes stains to make fingerprints visible.

One of the biggest changes will be utilizing cell blocks again. Staff Sgt. Carroll says there has been a Memorandum of Understanding for the last few years with Truro Police to use their cells when necessary. The 5 shiny new accommodations are almost ready for their first overnight guests, and although they did not look warm and inviting, they were certainly secure, with a video monitoring system, and a guard on duty.

A temporary exhibit room is outfitted with lockers for overnight securing of evidence until items could be moved to the long-term evidence storage area. This room is so secured and alarmed even Staff Sgt. Carroll did not have access to the area.

A collection of fire arms was stored in the exhibit room waiting to be destroyed by the

provincial firearms officer. Staff Sgt. Carroll says many of these have been confiscated during calls but others have

been turned in by the public. "It is as easy as giving us a call and we will come and pick it up," he says, "Or you can drop it off here any time."

A tour of the equipment room reflected the amount of gear potentially necessary in any given shift. There were 40 box style cubby holes for RCMP members to store their gear, ready to "grab and go" at a moments notice.

At the exterior of the renovated building is a new storage garage and caged storage area for seized items.

The public is invited to the Official Grand Re-opening of the Colchester District RCMP detachment in Bible Hill on August 3rd at 2:00 PM.



Monitoring station used to record and back-up audio and video interrogations.



Corporal Brad MacSwain is shown dusting for fingerprints in the Dusting Hopper.



Five new cells will soon be ready for their first guests, complete with video surveillance. It has been several years since the detachment had its own cell block in use.

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