



Copper Mining #1 - MacLean-Ogilvie Grist Mill

Copper Mining in Wentworth

By Hope Bridgewater

My first column, (page 22), on copper mining in Wentworth during 1901-1906 focused on the Copper Smelter building which smelted the rocks from two mines in Lower Wentworth (the Feeley mine) and West Wentworth (the Palmer mine) and brought up alongside the Wallace River by horse and carriage or sled to the Smelter.

The Smelter was behind the house where I now live and had access from the MacLean Road (now my lane) as well as to the MacLean-Ogilvie Grist Mill and Dam near where the Smelter was later built. As in the previous column I focused only on the Smelter, I will now report briefly about the MacLean-Ogilvie Grist Mill and Dam, the Smelter workers, and Crown Copper Hotel in order to make space for three photos.

Photo #1: The MacLean-Ogilvie Grist Mill and Dam located down back of my house was owned by the brothers, Tom and Peter Ogilvie. An American Copper Company, owned by a Mr. Hogal and his son William, purchased the mill site from the Ogilvie's and built the Copper Smelter near-by. The Grist Mill and Dam were located on a Raceway dug in the field so that water could flow though it from the nearby Wallace River for the mill and dam. Bushes and trees have grown up in the Raceway while the fields on either side are still farmed. The remnants of the grist mill remain at my house as the Ogilvie's, who had built this house on their property, at one point moved millstones to every house door entrance and elsewhere on the grounds.

Photo #2: Several Copper Smelter workers had their photo

taken in 1904 and they worked long hours. Local historian Ira Brown said that in winter of 1906 the Smelter operated night and day. Back row: Tom Ogilvie, James Clapp, unknown, James Chisholm, James Bonnyman; Front row: Frank Lynds, William Patriquin, Sandy Lepper, Ernie Brown, and Wilbert Lynds. They helped smelt copper from the rocks which had a blue colour, and a hundred years later a geologist Michael Cloutier from Quebec dug up some of the blue rocks and wrote me a postcard saying: "Bonjour Madame Bridgewater: Thank you for letting me see the blue stones. The fossil tree is about 320 million years old." The mining "boom" came to a sudden and unexpected end in 1906 and several of the workers at the Smelter and two mines did not get paid the \$100 owed to each of them. The operation was called a "wildcat" scheme as the Company sold shares in the USA after the Smelter and mines closed down.

Photo #3: The Mining Company built a large three storey hotel called the Crown Copper Hotel near to the MacLean Road to house the miners and smelter workers. After the mining "boom" crashed and the Hotel was no longer needed, Tom Ogilvie regained his property and transformed the large hotel into his house using the two upper floors and a general grocery store with a full range of goods on the first floor. This tradition was carried on by others: Lorán Ogilvie, Byron Patriquin, Harold Little, Lorne Henderson, Wendell Little, "Steamboat" Ollie Stevens, Derrick and Malcolm Fenton until Clary DeBaie operated it as a popular restaurant and campground in back. The huge building was destroyed by fire in 1970.

Wind Turbine Supplier in Receivership

By Maurice Rees

Information items coming before municipal council at its June 29th meeting included an advisory a petition to install street lights on Fairway Avenue, Stewiacke was unsuccessful. The gravel road property with 31 property owners is without water and sewer or streetlights. Mounting nine lights on every other pole would cost \$1,300 per year. Only 58% of residents were in favour of street lighting with 18 positive responds and three against. Ten owners did not respond and were deemed to be against.

The Colchester Eco-Trails Society has received \$8,147 (45%) funding towards a \$18,075 project to replace 140 feet of boardwalk on Sandy Cope Trail in Gully Lake Wilderness Area. The society will also build 100 feet of boardwalk on Rogart Mount Trail and replace directional and historical signs. The Cumberland Snowmobile Club will receive \$2,530 (50%) maintenance funding for brush cutting and clearing of sightlines of 7 Km of trail on Snowmobile Trail #1 in Economy River Wilderness area and trail #7.

Concerning Canada 150 activities council's operating

budget included funding to the Truro-Colchester Event Attraction Committee which will include a number of activities including Nova Scotia Music Week; New Opportunities and Regional Canada 150 celebration. The municipality was acknowledged as a partner in the Ria Mae concert held at Truro's Civic Square on July 1st. In a motion brought forward by Councillor Eric Boutilier council agreed to purchase a Canada 150 bench from a supplier in Bass River at a cost of \$1,400.

A negative information item distributed to council indicated Endurance Wind Power from whom the two wind turbines at the Kempton Balefill facility had ceased operations in December 2016 and eventually went into receivership. Both turbines began producing electricity on July 1, 2016. The municipality's \$40,000 prepayment for a five year maintenance program is lost.

To ensure the turbines receive the appropriate annual maintenance Molen, a company in Dartmouth has been engaged to provide the maintenance at an annual cost of \$5,000 for each turbine.



Copper Mining #2 - Copper Smelter Workers



Copper Mining #3 - Crown Copper Hotel

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