

Introduction: The Great Mines

The Porcupine Camp is dotted with head frames and open pit mines; some old, some newer, evidence of our mining heritage. Historically, the district has been a major producer of both gold and base metals. Along the Porcupine-Destor Fault, which runs 200km from Timmins to Destor in Quebec, over 65 million ounces of gold have been mined. Head frames towering majestically in our city's skyline conjure up images of adventure and heroism. As picturesque as they are, their presence served a necessary, practical function for past miners. Imagine if you will, the swiftly moving cables carrying cages filled with men or ore from a mile below the ground. Open pit mines are usually large and low grade in contrast to underground mines and are favored when ore is found close to the surface. The Dome Mine, the Kidd Creek Mine, and the Hoyle Pond Mine are still in production with the Dome offering bus tours to the public. Last but not least, your visit to Timmins would not be complete without capturing the mining spirit of the McIntyre, Hollinger, and Paymaster head frames.

- Around the Hollinger mine, you may notice the rehabilitation of the old Hollinger mine workings to remedy shaft subsidences.
- If you're driving into South Porcupine from the east, you will see on the south side of Porcupine Lake, the waste rock pile from the Dome mine, which has been rising in our skyline over the years.
- A great view of this rock pile is at the Whitney Cemetery (Deadman's Point) in Porcupine, where you will also find a monument in honour of those who lost their lives in the great fire of 1911.
- In front of Tisdale Cemetery, on Hwy 101 and at the bottom of Rea Hill, you can see the man-made hill from the Dome's tailings.
- Falconbridge Limited is pushing ahead with a new mine development 70 kilometres northwest of Timmins. It purchased the Montcalm nickel-copper property in 2001, and production began in 2004.
- Dome Mines Ltd. discovered an ancient piece of rock said to be three billion years old several decades ago. It can be seen in the flower garden at the Schumacher location of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on the Porcupine Camp's mining history, visit the Underground Gold Mine Tour and the Timmins Museum.

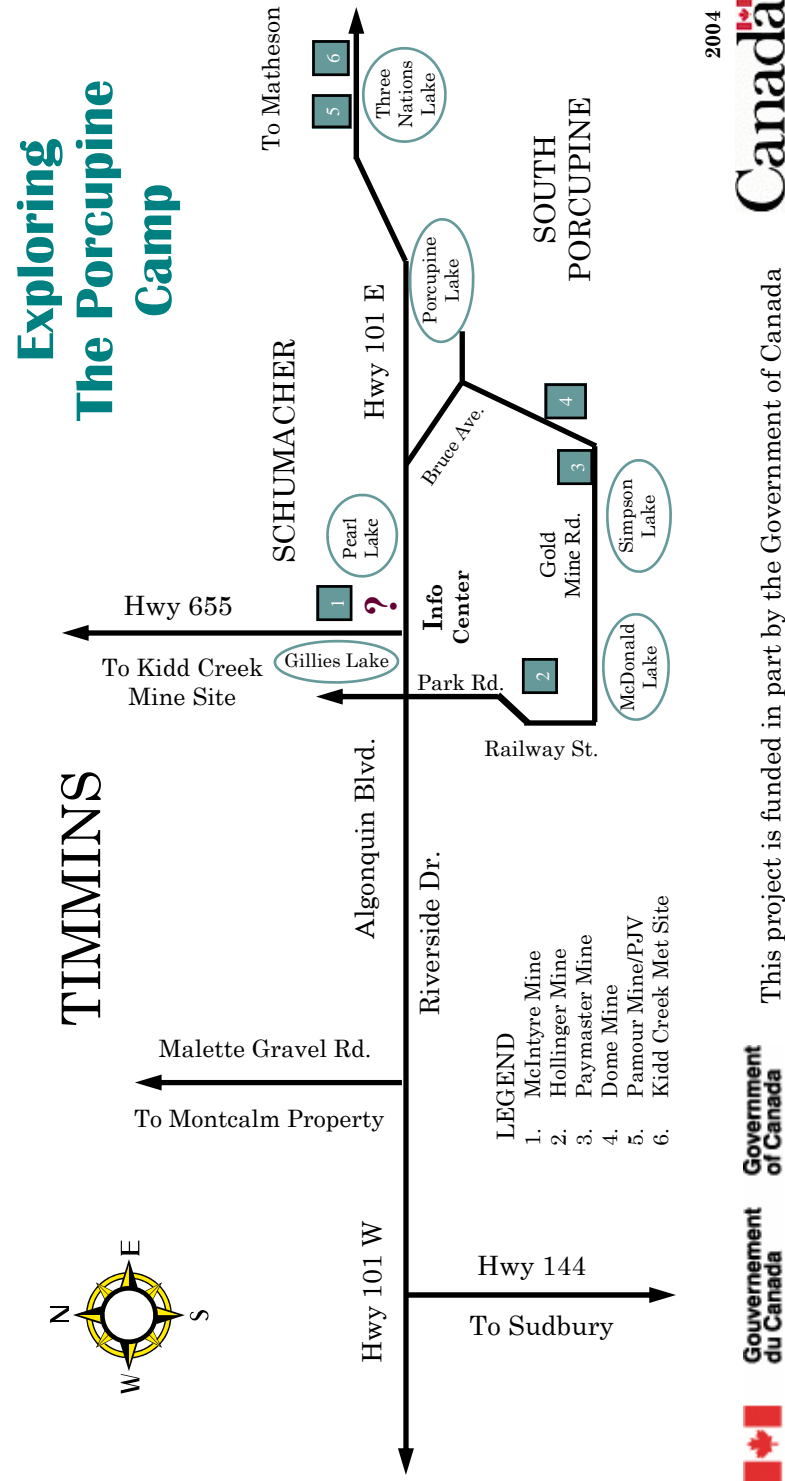


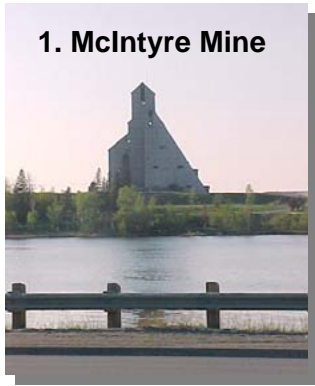
Photo courtesy of Steve Lacelle Photography



TIMMINS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

(705) 360-1900

Self-guided driving tour of various Timmins mines



1. McIntyre Mine



2. Hollinger Mine



1. The McIntyre Gold Mine is the 3rd largest producer of gold in Canada with a production of 10.8 million oz. Prospectors Alexander Olifant (alias Sandy McIntyre) and Hans Buttner staked their claims on the shores of Pearl Lake in 1909. The mine operated between 1912 and 1988. It consisted of an underground mining operation with several access shafts and vent raises as well as a mill, shops, and office buildings. The McIntyre arena was built in 1938 for the workers' and their families' recreational activities. At one point, copper was found in the area, and by 1963, copper ore recovered exceeded gold production. The only remaining building, following the demolition of the mine site in 2001, was the Shaft No. 11 head frame and a shed containing electrical switchgear for the head frame. The City of Timmins plans to redevelop the head frame and its immediate surroundings as a heritage monument to gold mining in the Porcupine Camp.

2. The Hollinger Gold Mine operated from 1910 to 1968 and closed due to depleting ore reserves. It is Canada's largest gold producer ever with 19.6 million ounces produced while in operation. In October 1909, Benny Hollinger and Alex Gillies made the discovery that led to the foundation of one of the world's largest gold mines and the beginning of the great Porcupine Gold Rush. Note that the rectangular head frame is a concrete building as opposed to most other head frames seen in the Timmins skyline, which are built with either wood or metal. The large black dome shaped building adjacent to the main head frame was a storage bin for the ore hoisted from underground. Although the mine is now closed, other companies are still using some of the buildings, Feldman Timber Co. has taken over one of the larger buildings to use as a retail store, and the old Hollinger office building houses many offices. Luzenac Inc. uses the old mill to process its talc. The old Pump house was used to pump fresh air down into the mine workings, but is now vacant. During the summer months, an underground gold mine tour is offered on a daily basis. This very exciting and informative journey is a must for the whole family.

3. The Paymaster Gold Mine was developed by Standard Mines Ltd. It operated from 1915 to 1966 and produced 1.2 million ounces of gold. The main shaft of the mine is somewhat run-down but still intact. The head frame is made of blue and silver sheet metal on the outside and the interior is constructed with wood. You can get an excellent view of it from the back road (across from Simpson Lake on Gold Mine Road). In 1945, tragedy struck at the Paymaster Mine when the cable supporting a cage broke, sending 16 men plummeting more than 1,500 feet to their deaths.



3. Paymaster Mine



4. Dome Mine



4. The Dome Gold Mine was the first producing gold mine in Timmins. In the spring of 1909, a prospecting team led by Harry Preston and Jack Wilson uncovered a mound or dome of gold-encrusted quartz. They staked their claims and called it "The Big Dome". The mine started as an underground operation and expanded to include the super pit. It consists of many buildings including the head frame (building with the red top), mill, shops, and office building. To date, it has produced over 15 million ounces of gold. Not only was it one of the first mines to be discovered, but it is Canada's longest running gold mine (now in its 97th year).

5. Pamour Mine/Porcupine Joint Venture Its ore body was first staked in 1909 by a prospector named A.C. Brown, but for a variety of reasons, such as the Great Fire of July 11, 1911, World War I, and the stock market crash of 1929, along with a general lack of funds, the mine had a difficult start-up. In 1935, a deal was made between Noranda Mines Ltd. and Pamour Porcupine Mines Ltd. to bring the mine into production with Quebec Gold as the manager. The name Pamour comes from a combination of the names of two prospectors, Firman La Palme, and Wilfrid D'Amour who were connected to the property at various times. The relocation of Hwy 101 to allow for the expansion of a new super pit is currently being completed. A section of the highway will be rerouted to the south side of the Three Nations Lake (which is presently across from the main pit).

6. The Kidd Creek Mine /Metallurgical sites are a division of Falconbridge Ltd. The mine is located approximately 22 km north of Timmins. This major ore body was discovered in 1963 and production began in 1966. Copper, zinc and silver are mined at the Kidd Creek Mine. They are then carried by the Kidd Creek railway to the metallurgical site 10 km away, where it is crushed, concentrated, and refined. Production of these base metals is accomplished using modern mining techniques and equipment. Here, 2.5 million tonnes of ore per year are mined. Mining began as an open pit at the top of the ore deposit for the first 6 yrs but gradually turned into an underground operation in 1973. This remarkable operation is the largest employer in the area and is one of the world's premier mining companies. Its present expansion (called the Kidd Mine "D" Project) will take the mine operation from 6800 to 10,500 feet. It will extend the current mine life to 2015. This significant project will establish it as the deepest base metal mine in operation in the world.



5. Pamour Mine



6. Kidd Creek Met Site

(See reverse for tour map)

