

RISE AND FALL OF GREEN CITY

CHAPTER 1 Former History

This article is an historical account of how a group of young couples enjoyed the wilderness upstream on Erie Creek, from Highway 3, about six (6) kilometers West of Salmo, B.C. The attendance at the site took place between the mid-1970s and ceased in the mid-1990s.

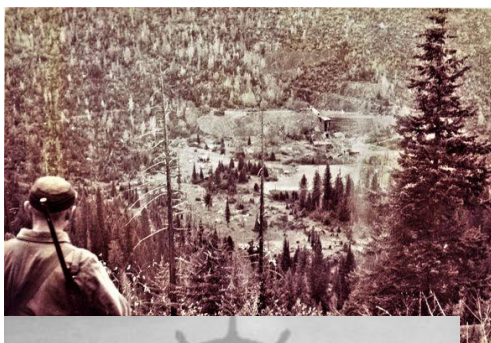
Parts of the story are “naughty”, in part, but filled with sarcastic humor of a “slaps stick” nature. The intent of the participants was to enjoy the wilderness with abandonment and fulfillment. That was achieved without any large amount of monetary expense. References to people and places are not intended to be defamatory nor critical in any fashion.

The “Council meetings’ that were conducted were intended to be a satire on municipal meetings using Dr. Parkinson’s Law and Robert’s Rules of Order. Those that read these accounts will appreciate the “simple” appreciation of law and order where there was not any!

The Reader will need to understand that.

1. The location of the Group Activity has some reference to the Second Relief Mine excerpt from Google regarding the original mining activity.

“.....The Second Relief mine is located in a mountain valley **20 kilometers northwest of Salmo**. The deposit was brought into production in 1902, was mined until 1919, resumed in 1928 and produced until 1941. This is the third largest gold-enriched skarn producer in the province. The main vein has been opened on 11 levels.



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MINFILE Record Summary
MINFILE No 082FSW187
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File Created: 24-Jul-1985 by BC Geological Survey (BCGS)
 Last Edit: 13-Mar-1991 by Dorthe E. Jakobsen (DEJ)

SUMMARY [Summary Help](#)

Name	SECOND RELIEF (L.2463), NO. 1 VEIN, IDA D (L.2462), BIG BUMP (L.2464), RELIEF FR. (L.2469), ERIE 1-5, STAR SHINE (L.2466), GRAND UNION (L.2467)	NMI Mining Division	Nelson
Status	Past Producer	BCGS Map	082F034
Latitude	049° 19' 20"	NTS Map	082F06W
Longitude	117° 23' 48"	UTM	11 (NAD 83)
Commodities	Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Molybdenum	Northing	5463352
Tectonic Belt	Omineca	Easting	471174
		Deposit Types	K04 : Au skarn K01 : Cu skarn K05 : W skarn
		Terrane	Quesnel, Plutonic Rocks

Capsule Geology The Second Relief mine is located in a mountain valley 20 kilometres northwest of Salmo. The deposit was brought into production in 1902, was mined until 1919, resumed in 1928 and produced until 1941. This is the third largest gold-enriched skarn producer in the province. The main vein has been opened on 11 levels.

The area is underlain by lapilli tuff (Unit Je81, Open File 1989-11) and augite porphyry volcanics of the Elise Formation and siltstone, sandstone, argillite and quartzite of the Archibald Formation both of the Lower Jurassic Rossland Group. These occur as a roof pendant within granodiorite of the Bonnington pluton of the Middle to Late Jurassic Nelson Intrusions. The deposit occurs on the west limb of the Erie Creek anticline along the Red Mountain fault.

The Second Relief mine comprises at least eight subparallel veins striking northeast and dipping steeply northwest in greenstone or argillaceous quartzite. These are the Second Relief or No.1, the No.'s 2 to 5, the Ida D and the Inez and Rand veins (082FSW216). The veins are sheared, quartz poor structures irregularly mineralized with pyrite and/or pyrrhotite plus one or more of magnetite, chalcopyrite, and sphalerite. Some of the veins locally host fine-grained visible gold. Gold and silver bearing veins consist of quartz, pyrite, epidote, garnet and magnetite. Lesser auriferous veins contain massive pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite.

The Second Relief is the main economic vein but the No.'s 2 to 5 parallel veins occur immediately to the southeast within about 100 metres. The Second Relief vein follows the hanging wall contact of an 8 to 12 metre wide diorite porphyry dyke and crosscuts projections of that dyke into the country rock. Where the dyke and vein go from volcanics to sediments the vein tends to follow the general bedding of the sediments but at the same time the precious metal values decrease greatly. The Second Relief or No.1 vein is 0.2 to 3.5 metres wide, has a strike length of 300 metres and has been

mined to a depth of 400 metres. The vein strikes 050 degrees and dips 80 to 85 degrees north. The gangue comprises quartz and locally disseminated magnetite, garnet and epidote, indicating the likely presence of skarn alteration associated with the Nelson batholith immediately to the northeast of the occurrence. The vein carries pyrite, pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite with traces of molybdenite reported. The parallel veins were disappointing in their precious metal values.

The No. 2 vein, about 10 to 16 metres southeast of the No. 1 vein, is over 300 metres long and has been exposed by trenching for more than 228 metres. The exposed mineralized portion of the vein is up to 2.4 metres wide. Gold assayed between 0.137 to 34.2 grams per tonne gold across 1 metre or more. This vein is similar to the Second Relief vein and closely parallels it in strike and dip. The vein, hosted by fragmental volcanic rocks, is mineralized with pyrite, pyrrhotite, magnetite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite and, locally, visible fine-grained gold particles. Vein quartz is sparse and the vein is surrounded by a silicification envelope.

The No. 3 vein is a narrow stringer with no obvious mineralization.

The No. 4 vein, 96 metres southeast of the No. 1 vein, has been exposed by open cuts over a length of 15 metres. The quartz vein hosts pyrrhotite with chalcopyrite and a sample across 0.5 metre assayed 12.3 grams per tonne gold (Assessment Report 19839). The hanging wall is greenstone and the footwall is diorite.

The No. 5 vein, 106 metres east of the workings, is mineralized with pyrite and chalcopyrite. In the adit, the vein is 1.5 metres wide. In 1988, 2 samples assayed 0.07 and 26.53 grams per tonne gold respectively (Assessment Report 19839).

The Ida D vein occurs in the central portion of the property, about 150 metres west of the Second Relief vein Samples from the portal area in 1988 assayed 0.10 to 35.65 grams per tonne gold (Assessment Report 19839). Production from this vein is reported as 34,280 grams of gold.

Sampling of pyritic alteration zones in the central portion of the property assayed 6.2 grams per tonne gold over more than 7 metres (Vancouver Stockwatch, Sept. 12, 1989).

The deposit is classed as a gold-enriched skarn. Production totals 207,023 tonnes which yielded 866,433 grams of silver, 3,117,637 grams of gold, 20,210 kilograms of copper, 1057 kilograms of lead and 147 kilograms of zinc.

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IPR AR 1899-847; *1900-847; *1901-1032; 1902-161; 1903-148; 1904- *129,135,*142; *1905-168; 1906-*150,248; 1907-103,213; 1908- 108,246; 1909-272; *1910-108; 1911-159; *1912-156; 1913-*131,419; 1914-*329,510; *1915-167; 1916-206; *1917-196; 1918-198; 1919-132, 158; 1920-134,*149; 1921-173; 1925-450; *1927-313; *1928-335; 1929-285,*355; 1930-230,*276; 1931-138; 1932-195; 1933-200,*232; *1934-E23; 1935-E29,G50; *1936-E48; 1937-E27,48; 1938-E3,E40; 1939-A37,84; 1940-A26,69; 1941-A68; 1943-A65; 1944-40,62; 1945- 43,100; 1946-35,145; 1948-134; 1959-A48; 1966-213
IPR ASS RPT [2146](#), [11451](#), [11552](#), [11785](#), *[13039](#), *[13115](#), [13486](#), [14637](#), [14886](#), [14966](#), *[19839](#)
IPR BC METAL MM01064, MM00962
IPR BULL 1, p. 99; 20, p. 12; 109
IPR EXPL 1986-C61
IPR FIELDWORK 1980, pp. 149-158; 1981, pp. 28-32, pp. 176-186; 1987, pp. 19-30; 1988, pp. 33-43; 1989, pp. 247-249; 1990, pp. 291-300
IPR MAP 7685G; RGS 1977; 8480G
IPR OF 1988-1; *1989-11; 1991-16
IPR PF (In 082FSW205: Relief-Arlington Mines Ltd. Annual Report, 1938; Hawkeye Developments Ltd., Prospectus, April 4, 1989)
C MAP 1090A
C MEM *191, p. 7; 308, pp. 111,155,173
C OF 1195
C P 49-22; 50-19; 52-13
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2. A historical Account suggests a Name discrepancy.

Upon review of this article, Craigtown was the first community about eleven (11) km up Erie Creek. Green City was developed further upstream and named Green City.

Erie — Craigtown — Green City

When Daniel C. Corbin built the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway to Kootenay Lake in 1893 he and some associates also organized the West Kootenay Land Company. Reflecting the optimism of the times they laid out townsites called Beaver (later changed to Fruitvale), Erie, Salmo and Quartz Creek, which also underwent a name change to Ymir.

There was little activity in any of them for the first four years because of the more spectacular Slocan and Rosland booms. After 1896, however, the mines above Ymir, the gold properties of Sheep Creek Valley and deposits in the mountains drained by Erie Creek captured attention and early settlements became thriving villages. Today Ymir, Salmo and Fruitvale, though small, survive because of surrounding logging and farming but Erie was not so fortunate.

It was born as a result of gold being found on the ridge between Hooch, or Whiskey, Creek and Rest Creek, and the staking of the Relief, Second Relief, Arlington and Keystone claims. Bonded to Finch and Campbell of Spokane, Washington, the Second Relief looked very promising and a small stamp mill was built. Enthusiasm ran high and on meadowland by the railway the West Kootenay Land Company laid out a townsite. Soon log cabins appeared, then two hotels and a general store built by James Hunnux who was also the druggist and postmaster. In 1899, 50 people lived in Erie and slowly increased until 1903 when there were 200. But there was also competition.

Seven miles (11 km) up the creek from Erie several claims were located at Craig's Camp, or Craigtown. Here in 1897, George McGauley opened a general store and John Bringold built a hotel. There development ended.

But such was the faith in the potential of the region that yet another community appeared. In 1899 George Green of Rosland bought the Jupiter, Ingersoll and Last Chance claims and organized the **Green City Development Company**. A new community planned as part of the development was called, naturally enough, **Green City**. Despite its grandiose name, Green City never became a rival to any place. In 1920 it had two stores and a hotel, its residential population listed as three farmers. In the late 1920s Cominco examined the property but undertook no development. Green City was abandoned, the three farmers presumably leaving. It was soon forgotten by everyone except adventurous berry pickers or autumn hunters.

The town of Erie lasted much longer, kept in existence because the Arlington and Relief claims were worked intermittently over an extended period of time. The mines were owned by various people from 1900 to World War One after which they remained idle until 1927. Two years later they were amalgamated as Relief-Arlington Mines Ltd. and in 1934 came under control of Premier Gold Mining Company. During this active period there were about 200 people in the area, most of the miners accommodated at the mine. Although fire destroyed living quarters in 1947, work continued. Small tonnages were shipped to the Trail smelter until the 1950s, but by then the community of Erie had waned. A major link to the past was severed in 1935 when storekeeper-druggist-postmaster James Hunnux retired after serving the community for over 35 years. The Mersey Hotel operated until the 1940s, although by then only 35 people lived in Erie. Today it is a suburb of nearby Salmo.

Disappearing with it were various railway sidings which handled ore from individual mines. Ten miles (16 km) out of Nelson, for instance, was Hall Siding, shipping point for mines at the headwaters of Hall Creek, with two hostleries run by Bill Doyle and John McIntyre. In the 1903 directory it is credited with 100 residents. Three miles (4.8 km) further was Porto Rico at the mouth of Barrett Creek where Louis Noel ran a store and a boarding house, surrounded by a scattering of small homes. As time passed these places also vanished, remembered only by the descendants of those pioneer miners who grubbed out an uncertain living.

Green City area was arbitrarily chosen by the group for their campsite in the Wilderness.

3. This map from Google Earth provides actual location

Rise and Fall of Green City Activity is indicated as shown:



For the purposes of this article, all references to Green City will refer to the name identified as the original site of Green City as shown on this map.

Edited March 08, 2023, by EWV