

Lode gold mineralization at Deer Cove, Baie Verte Peninsula, Newfoundland

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The Baie Verte Peninsula has recently become an important target for gold exploration in Newfoundland because of its tectonic and lithological similarities with the Mother Lode Belt of California. The Deer Cove lode gold deposit is located within the Point Rouse ophiolite complex of the Dunnage Zone and is one of the many significant gold occurrences in this area.

The mineralization is hosted by mafic volcanic rocks which occur in an overturned back-thrusted block overlying talc-carbonate altered ultramafic rocks. A genetic model has been

suggested in which the gold is thought to be remobilized from the ultramafics during the back-thrusting event and carried through fractures which served both as conduits for the hydrothermal fluids and depositional sites for the gold-bearing quartz-carbonate veins. Detailed petrography, as well as geochemical and stable isotope data from this study, further characterize the deposit and support, to a certain extent, the postulated model.

Gold deposits such as Deer Cove have important implications for Appalachian metallogeny.