

1953 to 1993: a look at the history of the Bathurst Mining Camp, northern New Brunswick

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January 15, 1993, marked the fortieth anniversary of the announcement of the discovery of the Brunswick No. 6 massive sulphide deposit, which operated from 1966 to 1983. Although exploration and minor mining had occurred previously in northern New Brunswick, e.g., Tetagouche Manganese (1842-1864) and the Austin Brook Iron Mine (1907-1915 and 1943), this discovery and a Geological Survey of Canada aeromagnetic survey prompted the resulting staking rush that led to the April 1953 discovery of the Brunswick No. 12 deposit, one of the largest massive sulphide deposits in the world (148 million tonnes, including past production, grading about 12.5% combined Pb-Zn). During 1953, a total of 41,606 claims were recorded in northern New Brunswick and "The Bathurst Mining Camp" was born.

Subsequent exploration outlined approximately 100 massive sulphide deposits and/or occurrences within the Bathurst Mining Camp and surrounding area. Of these, eight have

been producing mines over the years; the (a) Keymet Mine (1954-1956), (b) Wedge (1962-1968), (c) Heath Steele (1962-1993), (d) Caribou (1970-1974; 1983 and 1989-1990), (e) Nigadoo (1967-1971 and 1973-1977), (f) Murray Brook (1989-1992), (g) Stratmat (1989-1993), and (h) Captain North Extension (CNE) (1990-1992) deposits. Exploration has gone on throughout the life of the Bathurst Mining Camp and several areas are presently receiving high priority, namely the Half Mile Lake, Key Anacon, Murray Brook and Restigouche deposits and the Brunswick Belt extending from the Brunswick No. 12 area to the Heath Steele Mine. With reserves at Brunswick No. 12 estimated to last another 10 years, present exploration and government geoscience surveys are concentrated on finding another large deposit, in an effort to keep mining alive and well in the Bathurst Mining Camp for another 40 years.