

Gold Islands Near The City

Frank Bailey, M.E., Says Action Should Be Taken To Develop Them

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, February 2024.
Source: Vancouver Daily Province, Saturday, December 2nd, 1933, page 34.

Within ten miles [16 km] of the Vancouver Post Office, there are a number of islands on which there is gold ore capable of being developed to produce millions of dollars worth of yellow metal, according to Frank Bailey, M.E. [Mining Engineer].

Mr. Bailey argues that the government of B.C. should take stalk of the existence of such gold deposits and bring about an arrangement under which many of the men at present unemployed [due to the 1930s 'Great Depression'] could be given profitable work in those areas. Writing on the existence of those auriferous islands, Mr. Bailey says:

"The cretaceous mountains observed on each side of the North Arm [Indian Arm] of Burrard Inlet are too massive for penetration, but they are over-flowed on top of the old gold formation."

"The North Arm of Burrard Inlet, being either gouged-out by glaciers or not being covered-up by the cretaceous rocks exposed to the east and the west, hold the old gold formation for some miles in a north and southerly direction which are exposed on five different islands, namely, One Tree Island, Twin Islands, Racoon Island and Jug Island."

"One Tree Island [located immediately north of 'Twin Islands'] is a very small island, covered by the 'Lost Mine' mineral claim. Twin Islands are covered by the 'Twin No.1 and No.2' mineral claims [*sic.* 'Duke Fraction' Mineral Claim, August 23rd, 1912]. Racoon Island is covered by the 'Dot Fraction' mineral claim [Property File: Richmond, M.E., 1935], the island comprising nearly four acres of land and is situated three-quarters of a mile [1.2 km] south-west of Twin Islands and three-quarters of a mile [1.2 km] north-east of Jug Island, and about a mile [1.6 km] from 'Woodlands' to the west, and a mile [1.6 km] from 'Primrose Park' [the name Bailey gave to his property at Farrer Cove] on the east shore of the Inlet."

"The radius is ten and one-half miles [17 km] from the Vancouver Post Office. Most of the assessment work has been done on Racoon Island and a few feet below the surface these iron sulphides of Bridge River and Cariboo form are exposed. It is estimated that \$30,000,000 lie between Racoon and Jug Islands in iron sulphides. A six-foot by eight-foot shaft [1.8 x 2.4m] was started this summer [1933] and about \$500 worth of work was done on an outlay of \$100 cash. No assays were attainable at the surface, but a few feet in depth gave \$1 per ton. At 200 feet [60m] in depth, \$20 ore will be extracted."

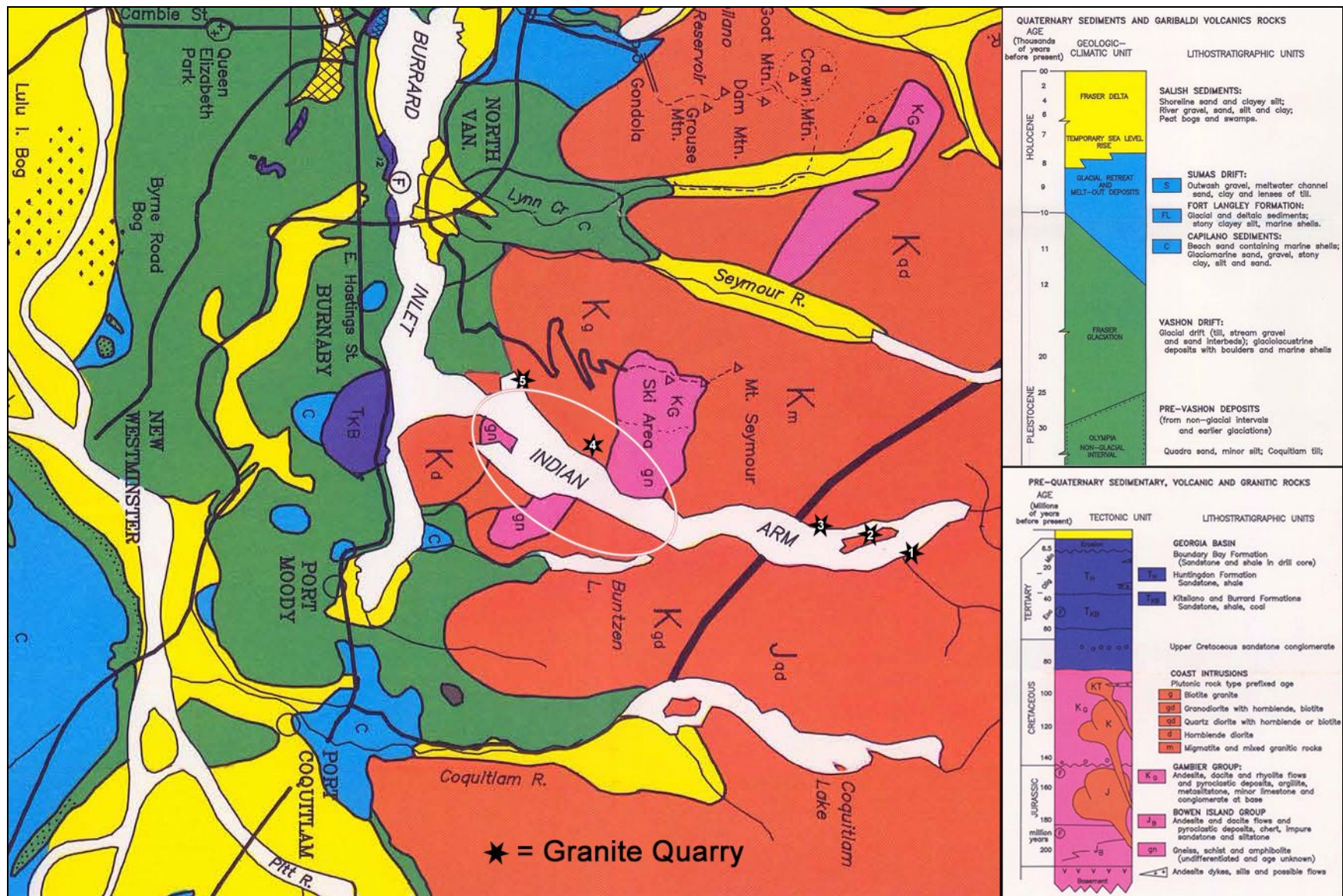
"Jug Island lies three-quarters of a mile [1.2 km] south-west of Racoon Island. On the island, like Racoon Island, the basic and acidic rocks are in contact, being parted by a few inches of feldspar. In and under these diorites iron sulphides are exposed. A little way to the east of Jug Island, thirty feet [9m] of quartz is exposed with parallel bands of feldspar from one to six inches [2 to 15 cm] in width. No samples of either the quartz or feldspar were taken, nor any assays made, but a diamond drill would prove economic ore at depth. This bore hole ought to be sunk for 1000 feet [300m]."

"The Bridge River iron sulphides to the north are some 3000 feet [914m] in elevation above the Vancouver group and are handicapped like the Cariboo with extensive overhead expenses, such as transportation and climatic conditions, whereas the snow never stays on Racoon Island. A 200-foot [60m] shaft would supply enough gold for the erection of a small cyanide plant on Racoon Island."

Mr. Bailey explains that preliminary steps for the formation of a company to develop those gold-bearing islands were taken some time ago, and a small amount of money raised. Further action by the parties backing the movement is meantime in abeyance.

After Notes:

1. During the late part of the 19th-century and early part of the 20th-century, exploratory shafts were dug at various locations around Indian Arm to determine if there were mineral deposits worth mining.
2. In 1886, **Captain John Rainey** (1828–1903) pre-empted 245 acres (District Lot 812) after retiring from the military, and settled the property which included both 'Brighton Beach' and 'Orlomah Beach'. Rainey built a house on the south 100 acres of the property, which he named 'Brighton Beach', planted a garden, and mined gold and silver on the property.
3. '**Lottie Mine**' — "The property of **John Rainey**, on the North Arm of Burrard Inlet, is situated only 12 miles [19 km] from the *City of Vancouver* and quite handy to the smelter. Width of vein 30 feet [9m]. Trend, northeast by southwest, and stands perpendicular. Assay of surface rock, \$3.00 gold and \$9.37 silver to the ton, but the ore is sure to turn-out much richer." — Source: David Oppenheimer, [The Mineral Resources of British Columbia](#), 1889, page 45, published by the 'Vancouver News-Advertiser'.
4. '**No Surrender Mine**' — "Situated close to the 'Lottie Mine' on the North Arm of Burrard Inlet; 11 miles [18 km] from Vancouver; belongs to the same owner [**John Rainey**] and promises well. Width of vein 30 feet [9m]. Trench northeast and southwest, and dips slightly to the northwest. Mine is on the side of a mountain. Assays from surfacer \$10.95 gold and \$2.45 silver to the ton; it is expected that the deeper the shaft is being sunk, the richer the percentage of silver to gold will become." — Source: *Ibid*.
5. '**Vancouver Silver Mine**' — "Situated on [the North Arm of] Burrard Inlet 13 miles [21 km] by water from the city; on a range of mountains running to the north, will be developed in the spring [1889]. It contains mainly rich grey silver. Assays \$20.00 silver to the ton." — Source: *Ibid*. — Note: \$1.00 in 1889 was worth about \$30.00 or more today.
6. In 1907, the '**Being Roy**' mineral claim (DL 2369) was surveyed on the east side of Indian Arm across from Captain Rainey's gold and silver mines (see map below).
7. The first mineral claim on Twin Islands was the '**Duke Fraction**' Mineral Claim which was surveyed in August 1912.
8. Subsequent to the '**Duke Fraction**' claim and the above newspaper article, Twin Islands had two mineral claims — **ALFA No.1 (Lot 5959) and ALFA No.2 (Lot 5958)** — surveyed in May 1941 and registered in the name of Katherine Surbey (1893–1967).
9. '**DOT Fraction**' Mineral Claim — "The Dot Fraction claim is located on Racoon Island in Indian Arm. The island is underlain by granitic rocks of the Jurassic to Tertiary Coast Plutonic Complex. Several open cuts and a 2.4 metre [8-foot] shaft occur near the centre of the island towards the northern shore. The open cut exposes oxidized quartz. A selected sample, in 1935, from a small pile of this material assayed 1.37 grams per tonne gold." — Source: Dot Fraction Claim, 1985, [MINFILE Record Summary No. 092GSE013](#).
10. The first mineral claim at Farrer Cove was the '**Tewonine**' claim (DL 2909) *circa* 1910; however, very little is known about the claim.
11. In addition to the mining claims on the islands of the 'Belcarra Archipelago' as noted in the above newspaper article, there were also three mineral claims surveyed in 1911 and 1915 along the shoreline near Farrer Cove area registered in the name of Edwin Parker Bremner (1867–1936) — Lot 4056 ('**Waterline**'), Lot 4057 ('**Waterside**') and Lot 4058 ('**Sideline Fraction**') — Source: [B.C. Archives](#), Call No. [GR-0437](#), "Land surveys relating to the Railway Belt", Series 2, Quarter Section Survey Files, Box 23.
12. World War One veteran Frank Bailey (1873–1945) received a Dominion Government of Canada 'Soldier Grant' of 80 acres (32.4 ha) located about 100 meters north of Sasamat Lake on June 4th, 1919. — Source: *Ibid*.
13. Frank Bailey received Lot 3 at Farrer Cove (Plan 66230E, 3.4 acres) as a Soldier Grant in 1926. — Source: *Ibid*. During the 1930s 'Great Depression', Bailey was on "Relief" (welfare) and had to travel to Port Moody by foot to collect his relief payments. — Source: Frank Bailey, World War One Military Records, Library and Archives Canada, B0343-S030.
14. There is a 6-foot-high [2m high] horizontal shaft about 30 to 40 feet [9m to 12m] deep, just above sea level near Lot 4 (Plan 5175) in Farrer Cove, along with one that is filled-in. There is also an 8-foot [2.4m] vertical shaft on Racoon Island, dug in 1933, that is now filled-in with shrubs and water, and another exploratory shaft on Twin Islands.

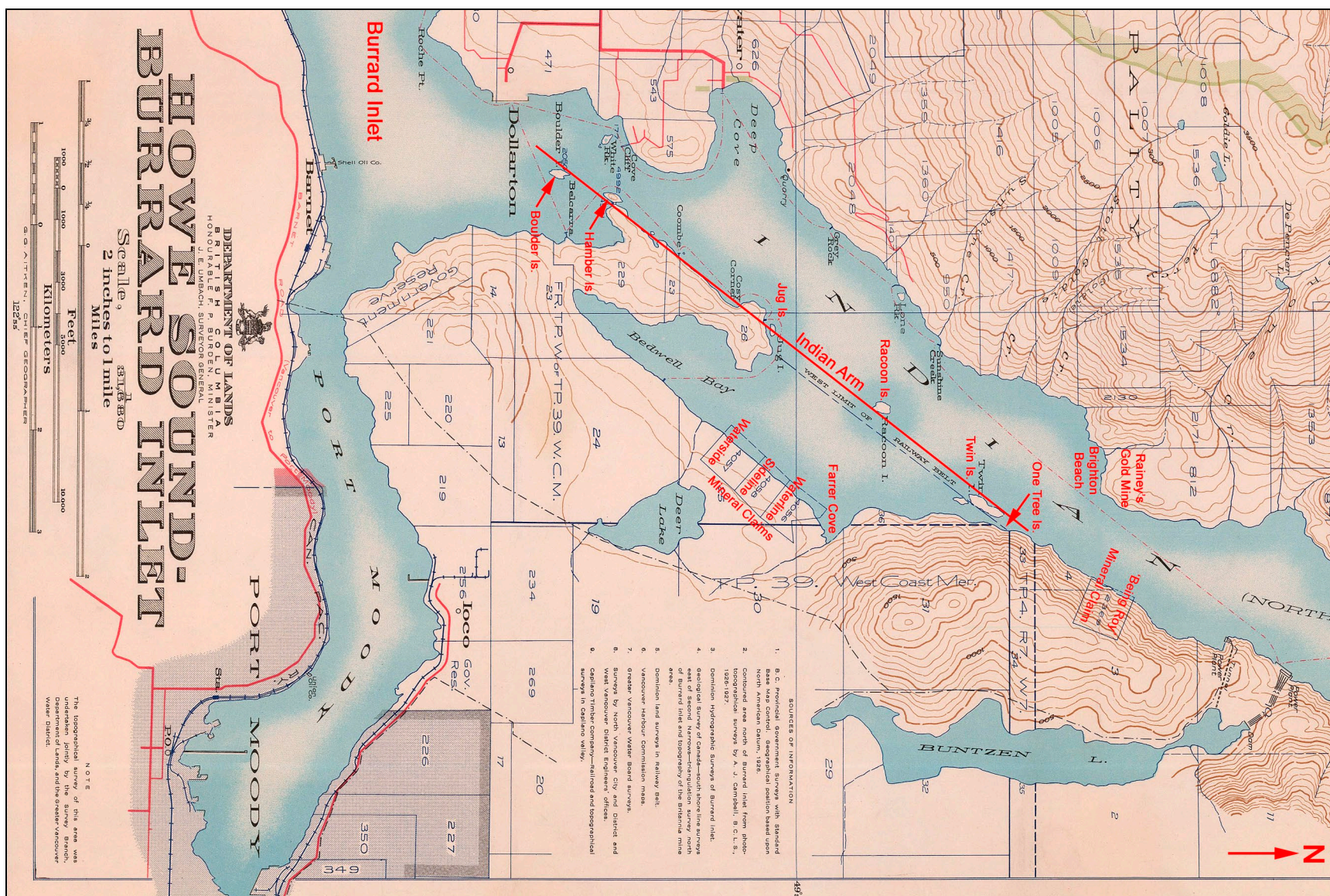


Source: Dr. John E. Armstrong, 'Vancouver Geology', Vancouver, 1990.

Map annotated by Ralph Drew.

‘Surficial and Bedrock Geology of the Fraser Lowland and Coast Mountains near Howe Sound’

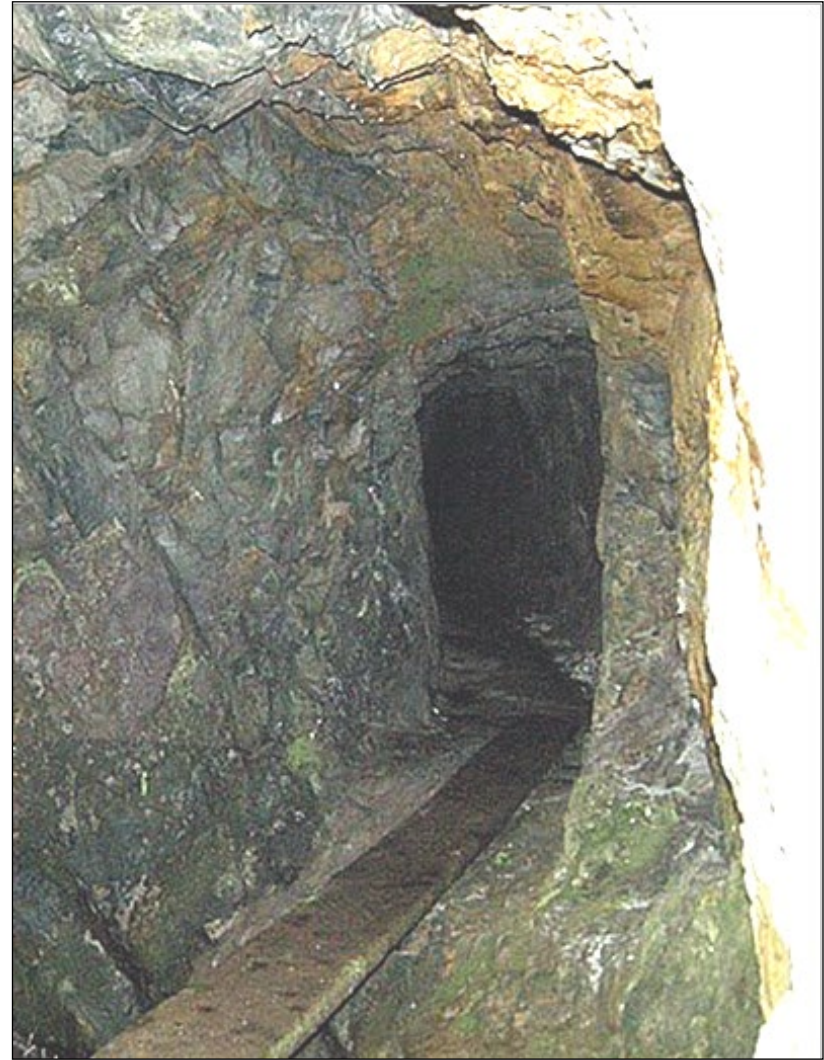
- note the location of “gneiss (gn) intrusions” (purple areas within the white ellipse)
- also note the locations of the former Granite Quarries on Indian Arm (black stars):
(1) Granite Falls, (2) Croker Island, (3) Elsay Creek, (4) Brighton, and (5) Deep Cove.



Source: City of Vancouver Archives (CVA Map 30b).

Map annotated by Ralph Drew.

Portion of the '1929 Map of Burrard Inlet' showing the seven islands of the 'Belcarra Archipelago' — Boulder, Hamber, Jug, Racoon, Twin and One Tree Islands — also note the mineral claims in the vicinity of Farrer Cove.



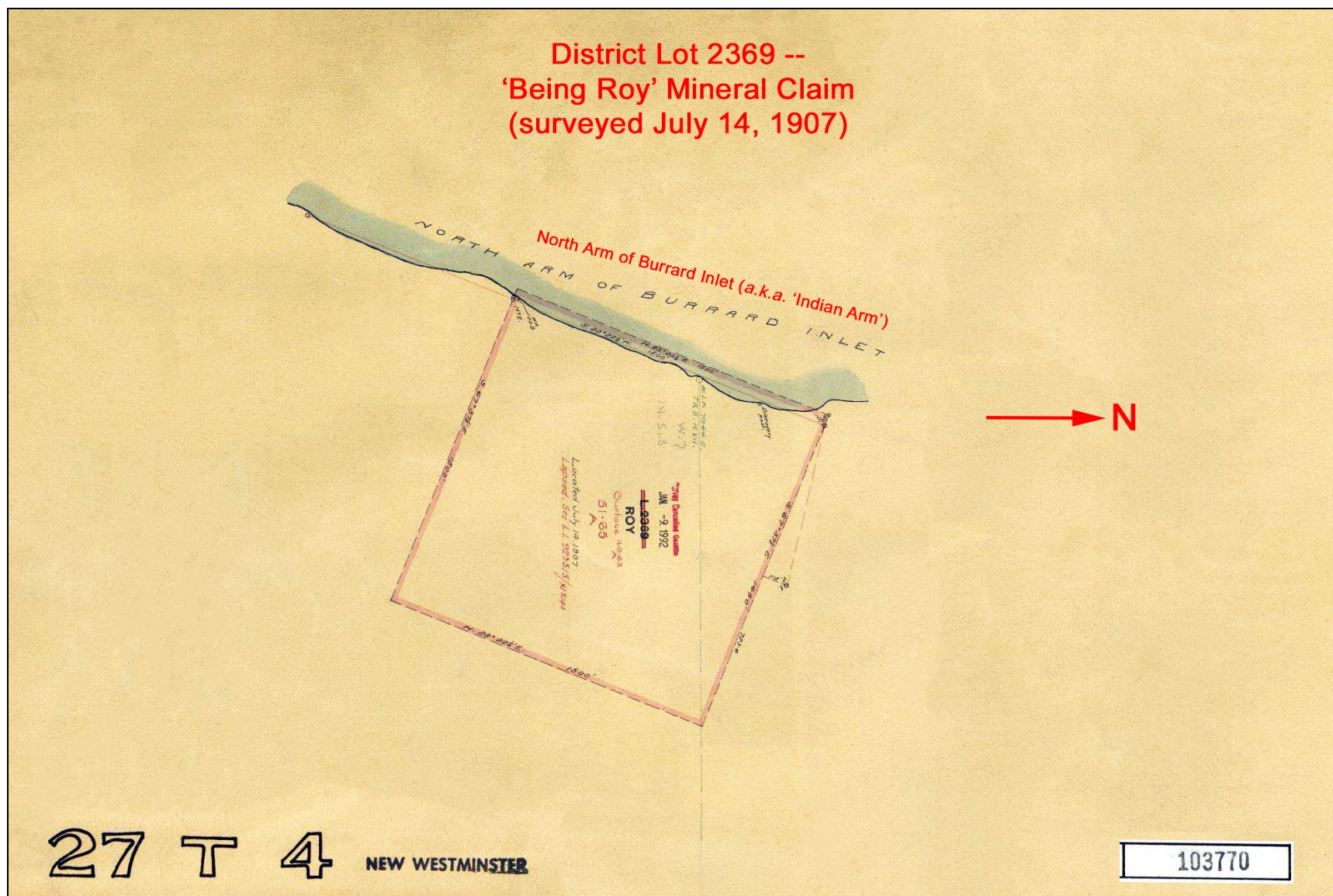
Photographs by Ralph Drew, 2008.

**Unidentified mine shaft located approximately 600 metres
north of 'Best Point' on the west side of 'Indian Arm'.**



Source: City of Vancouver Archives (CVA Out P577).

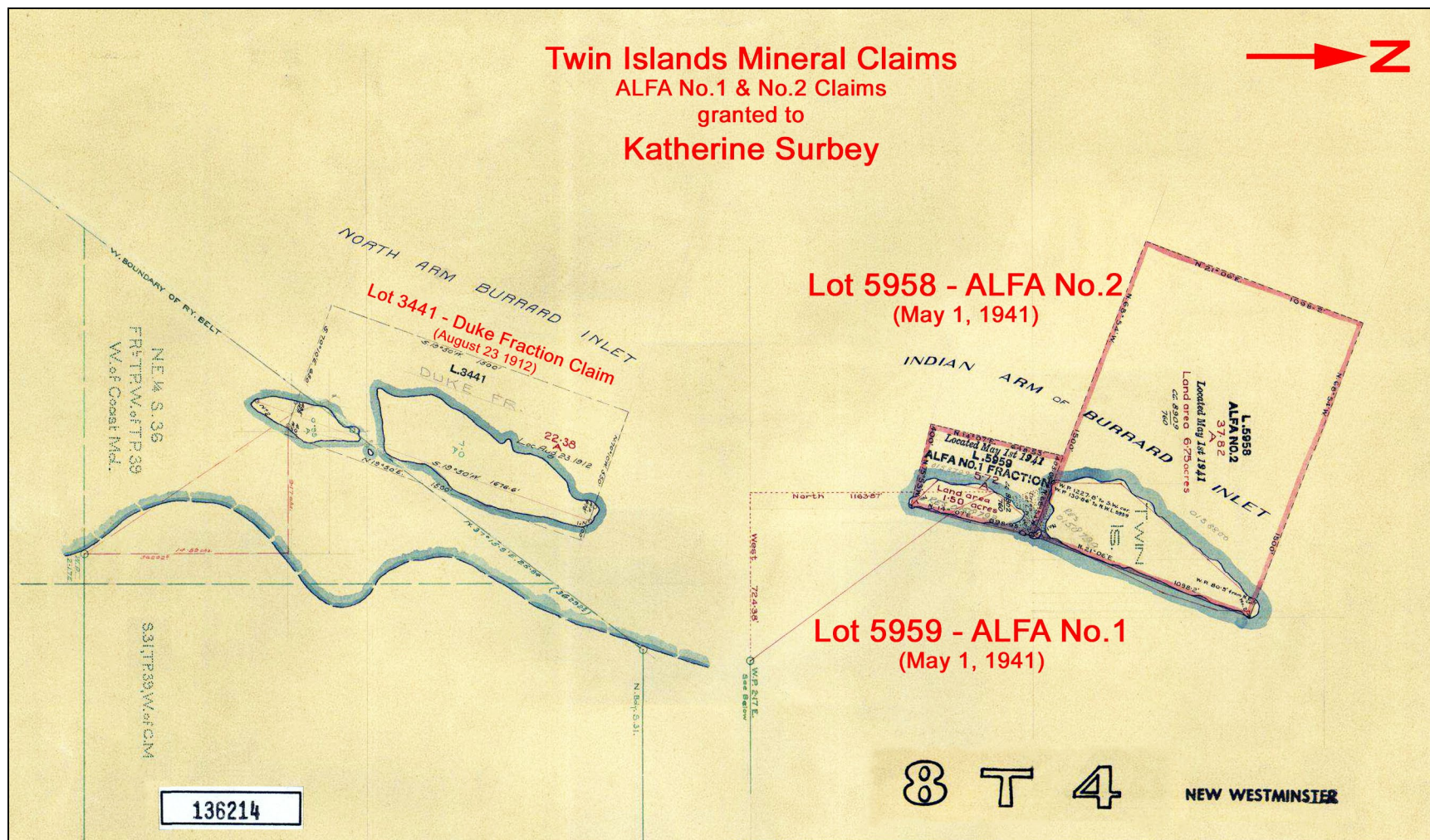
Captain John Rainey's gold and silver 'Lottie Mine' at Brighton Beach (DL 812) on the west side of Indian Arm, circa 1890 — Captain Rainey with full beard (upper center).



Source: Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA 27T4, ID #103770).

Survey plan annotated by Ralph Drew.

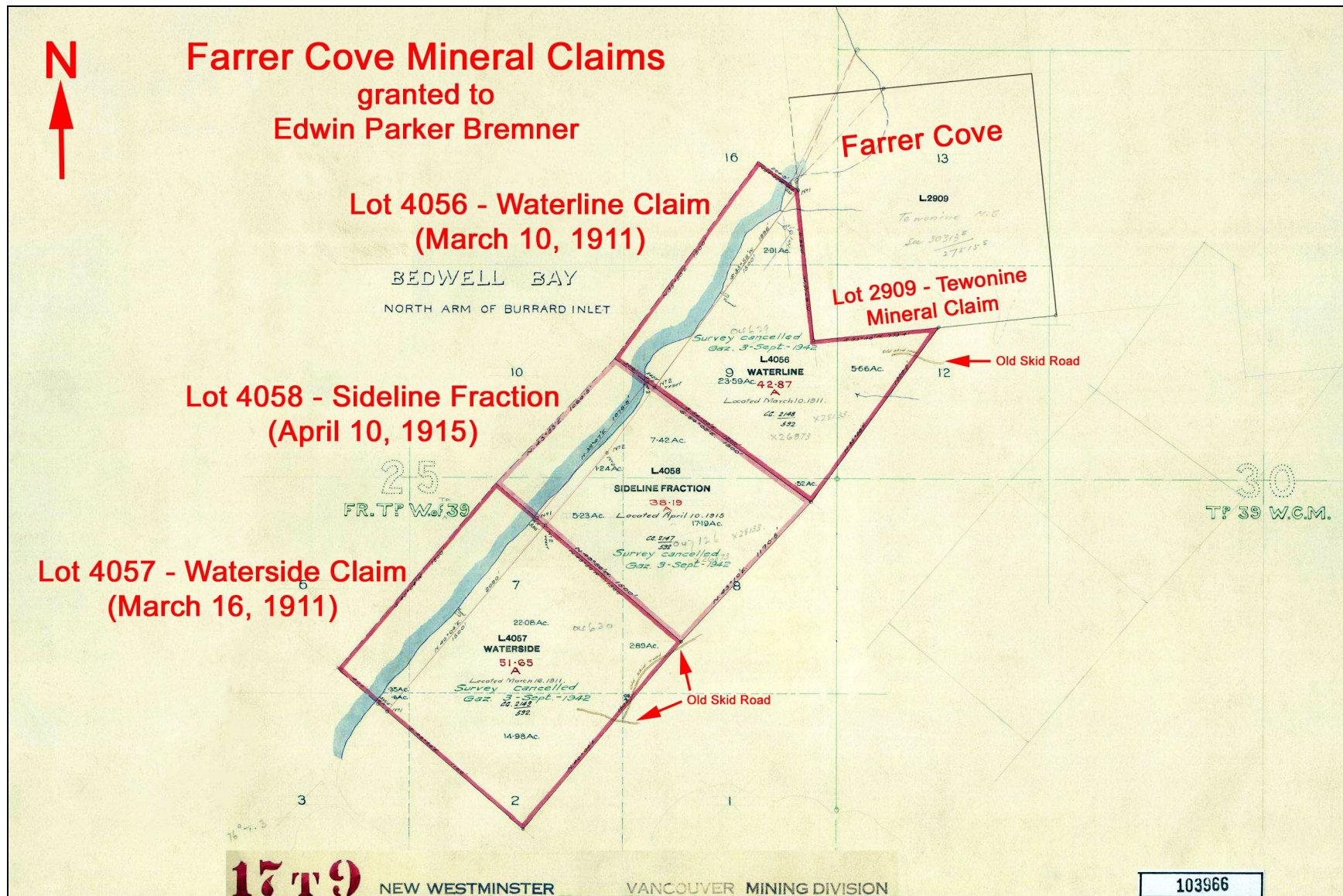
**1907 Survey Plan for Lot 2369, Group 1, NWD — 'Being Roy' Mineral Claim
— located on the east side of Indian Arm across from Brunswick Beach.**



Source: Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA 8T4, ID #136214).

Survey plan annotated by Ralph Drew.

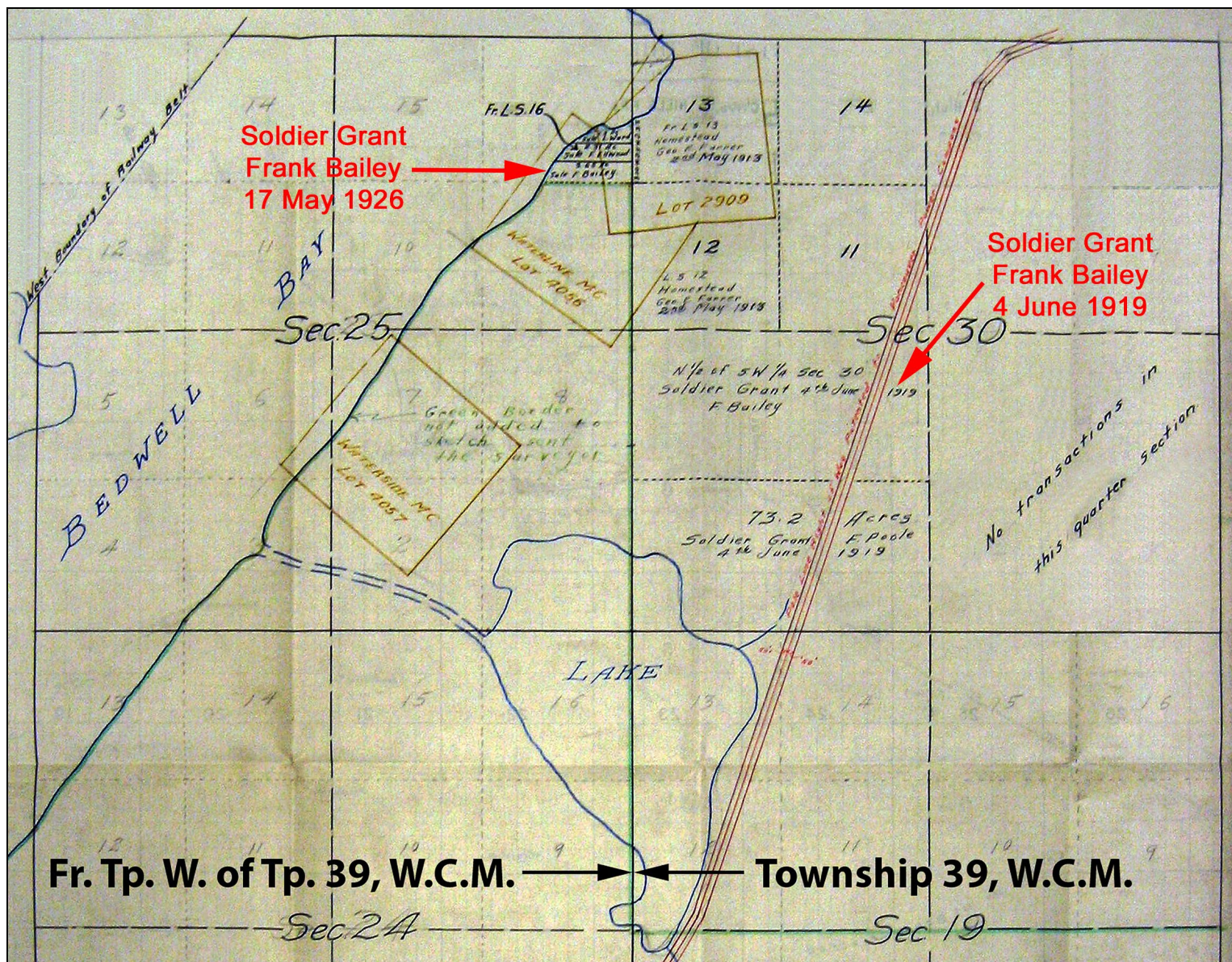
**1941 Survey Plan for Lots 5958 and 5959, Group 1, NWD —
Twin Islands Mineral Claims ALFA No. 1 and ALFA No. 2 — note the
1912 'Duke Fraction' Mineral Claim on Twin Islands (left survey).**



Source: Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA 17T9, ID #103966).

Survey plan annotated by Ralph Drew.

1911 & 1915 Survey Plan for the Farrer Cove Mineral Claims, North Arm of Burrard Inlet — Lot 4056 (Waterline), Lot 4057 (Waterside) and Lot 4058 (Sideline Fraction), Group 1, NWD — note the two “Old Skid Road” notations located on the survey plan.



Source: Royal B.C. Museum & Archives, GR-0437, Series 2 Quarter Section Survey Files, Box 23.

Survey plan annotated by Ralph Drew.

**Survey plan of Farrer Cove, circa 1930 —
note Frank Bailey's Lot 3 property and Soldier Grant dated 4th June 1919.**