

From the Mineral Inventory Files

A Pockwock Walk

Last fall, I revisited a Au-Ag occurrence at Pockwock, Halifax County (Fig. 1), that has intrigued me since I first visited there in 1997. My visit was at the request of the current mineral rights holder, prospector Corey Barkhouse, who was doing some trenching. I jumped at the chance to see the geological relationships of the veins since most of these were obscured in my earlier visits. When I first field checked the site in 1997 it was just to catalogue another small, Meguma-style Au prospect. On visiting the site, however, it quickly became apparent that there was a lot more here than I assumed.

The only written mention of this prospect is a few lines on p. 218 of W. Malcolm's *Gold Fields of Nova Scotia* (1976 GSC Memoir 385). Malcolm states that in 1863, three shafts 37, 9 and 5 m deep were sunk on three quartz veins that are slightly discordant to bedding; by 1868 the site was abandoned. I located the old shafts at the site, but found that immediately north of the old workings there is an area of considerable trenching and blasting for which there is absolutely no record in DNR exploration assessment reports. The work was concentrated on the contact zone of the South Mountain Batholith with the Halifax Formation country rocks (Fig. 1) and exposed monzogranite intruded by highly silicified and greisenized leucogranite and pegmatite. There are several veins of blocky quartz related to the leucogranite and pegmatite, and these intrude both the granites and the adjacent Halifax Formation slates.

Although geologically interesting, the granitic relationship of this system of veins and silicified zones led me to feel that the site probably had little gold potential. To my great surprise, however, three samples I collected and analyzed from the granite-related veins and silicified zones in the large trenched area returned 1160, 780 and 158 ppb Au and 5, 3 and 14 ppm Ag, respectively. Since then, the prospect has been in the back of my mind, hence my interest in the current work being done there. The early

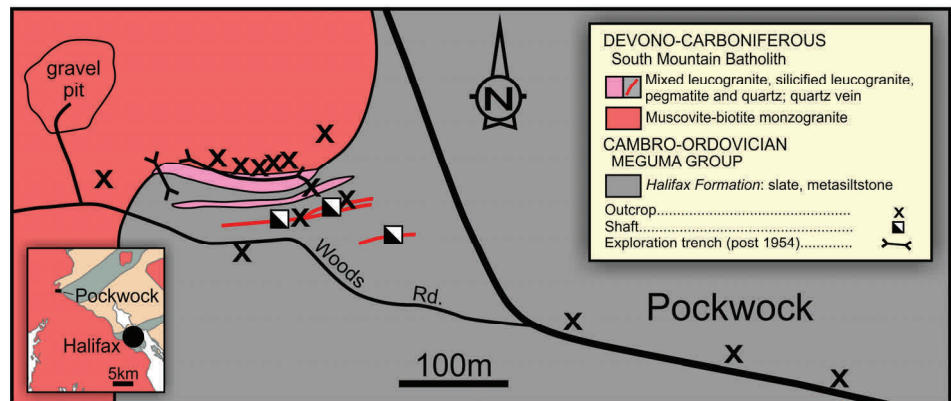


Figure 1. Geology of the Pockwock Au Prospect, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia.



Figure 2. Vial of gold grains obtained from crushing a 5 gallon bucket full of quartz collected from waste piles at the Pockwock Au Prospect.

results of prospector Corey Barkhouse are perking my interest even more, in particular the result of a test he carried out where he collected a 5 gallon bucket of loose quartz debris from the property, which he subsequently crushed and panned. This effort produced the impressive vial full of gold grains shown in Figure 2.

When and by whom was all the trenching and blasting of the contact zone done? This ground disturbance was clearly done by earth-moving equipment and, although recognizable on a 1992 air photo of the area, there is no evidence of it on 1954, 1947 or 1931 vintage air photos. My feeling is that this work was done in the mid-

1960s when a company called Atlantic Silica Limited was exploring several large quartz vein deposits as a source of quartz for the making of a specialized, pre-cast concrete. The Annual Mines Reports between 1966-1970 mention this search for vein quartz material but since this is classed as an industrial mineral, the work did not need to be submitted for exploration assessment. Clearly, the gold potential of this property deserves a more detailed round of exploration. I hope this study takes place, as it will help shed light on what may be a style of gold mineralization in the province that has an obvious granite association.

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