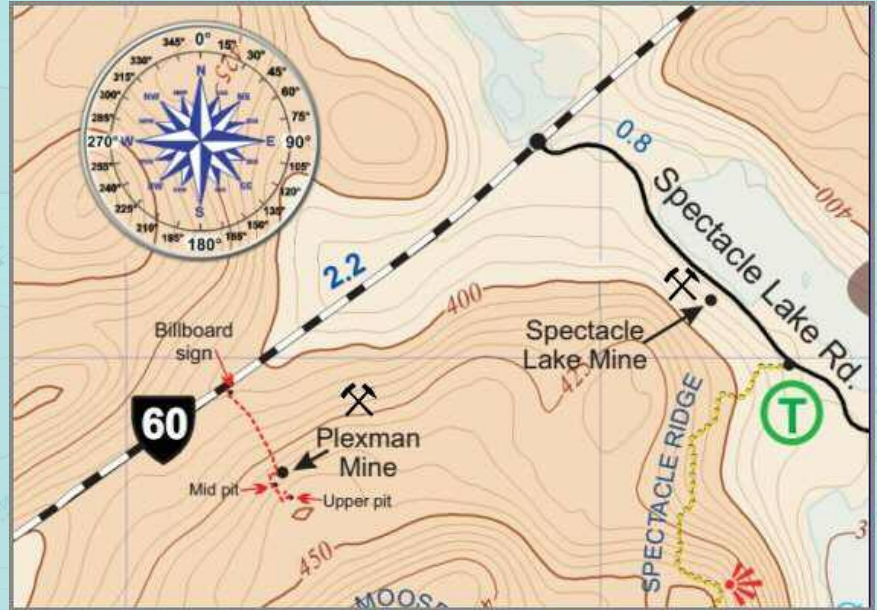


## History Note – Mining

# ⚡ PLEXMAN MINE ⚡

A. E. Plexman prospected in early 1950s (before 1954) pegmatite<sup>1</sup> deposits in the area known as Plexman Mine. He was primarily looking for feldspar.

The area is underlain by rocks of the Algonquin Batholith. A zoned pegmatite dike, hosted in gneiss<sup>1</sup>, with a width of 0.6 metres (SE end) to 6 metres and a probable length of 38 metres, has been worked for feldspar. It is similar to the Madawaska River deposit and has a spur of graphitic granite that extends to the NE. Where the dike has been trenched it contains about 20% feldspar.



Sample of pegmatite

Records indicate that no commercial quantities of minerals were shipped from this mine.

### Mine Site

The Plexman mine consists of a trench that starts mid-way up a bank and extends 50 metres to the top from where a shallow trench continues for another

approximate 50 metres. There are three distinct small shallow pits along the trench up the slope.

### Mine Location

The Plexman mine is in the bush south from Hwy 60. Start at roadside billboard (see Photo 1) on Hwy 60 located 850 metres (0.85 km) west of junction with Spectacle Lake Road. From the billboard follow a route at 162° (magnetic north) bearing for 200 metres to a horizontal crack in rock outcropping (see Photo 2) about half-way up slope of a ridge. The mine trench begins



Photo 1. Billboard on south side Hwy 60 located 850 metres (0.85 km) west of junction with Spectacle Lake Road.



at a shallow pit (Photo 3) immediately above this crack. A second shallow pit (Photo 4) is located about mid-point in trench up the slope.

The third shallow pit (Photo 5) is found in the trench at crest of the slope. Observe from this pit a shallow trench heading south through some trees for about 20 metres whence it comes out onto barren rock and swings westerly for another 30 metres to fade out.



**Photo 2.** Crack in rock that marks bottom end of Plexman mine trench.



**Photo 3.** Bottom level shallow pit in Plexman mine trench.



**Photo 4.** Mid level shallow pit in Plexman mine trench.



**Photo 5.** Top level shallow pit in Plexman mine trench.

### GPS UTM Coordinates

Zone: 18 T Datum: NAD83

Billboard on Hwy 60	E 275224.4 N 5045922.9	Mid-level shallow pit	E 275311.3 N 5045729.5
Crack in rock	E 275311.6 N 5045760.7	Top shallow pit	E 275331.8 N 5045712.1
Bottom shallow pit	E 275319.2 N 5045753.7	Top baron rock	E 275347.9 N 5045704.8

1. Pegmatites are extreme igneous rocks that form during the final stage of a magma's crystallization. They are extreme because they contain exceptionally large crystals and they sometimes contain minerals that are rarely found in other types of rocks.

To be called a "pegmatite," a rock should be composed almost entirely of crystals that are at least one centimeter in diameter. The name "pegmatite" has nothing to do with the mineral composition of the rock.

Most pegmatites have a composition that is similar to granite with abundant quartz, feldspar, and mica. These are sometimes called "granite pegmatites" to indicate their mineralogical composition. However, compositions such as "gabbro pegmatite," "syenite pegmatite," and any other plutonic rock name combined with "pegmatite" are possible.

2. Gneiss (*pronunciation: 'nais*) is a common distributed type of rock formed by high-grade regional metamorphic processes from pre-existing formations that were originally either igneous or sedimentary rocks. It is often foliated (composed of layers of sheet-like planar structures). The foliations are characterized by alternating darker and lighter colored bands, called "gneissic banding".

© 2016, Madawaska Trails Group

15 September 2016  
Rev. 2025