

History Note – Mining

SPECTACLE LAKE (WOLFSDEN) MINE

In the period 1948-1949 the Opeongo Mining Company (Barry's Bay) worked a deposit known as the Spectacle (Wolfsden¹) Lake Mine. The minerals of interest were feldspar (crystalline minerals composed mostly of aluminium silicates) and to a lesser extent quartz.

Records indicate that some 418 tonnes of feldspar was shipped in 1948 from this deposit.

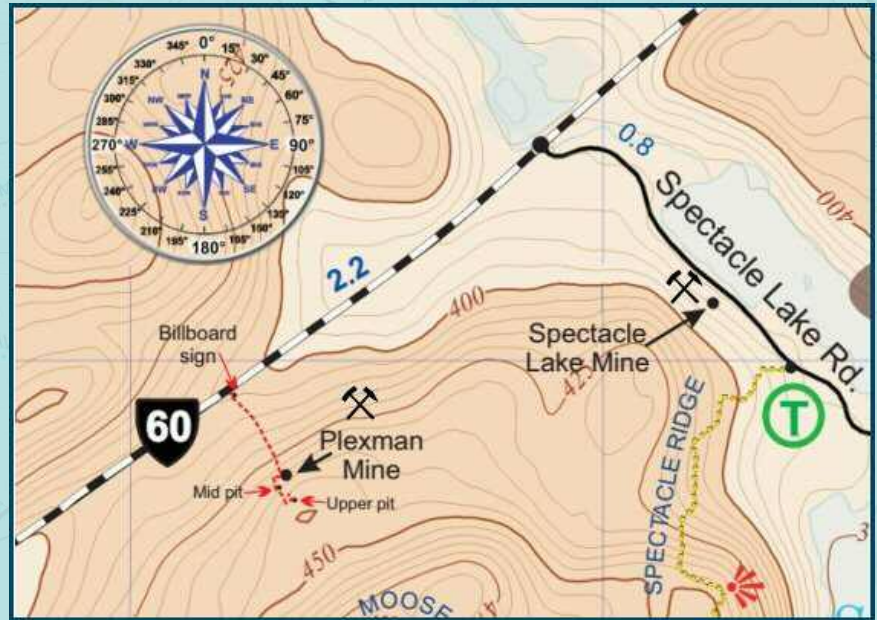
Like most other mines in the Madawaska region, Opeongo Mining abandoned the Spectacle Lake Mine due to inadequate transportation to move the ores to markets.

Mine Site

The mine consists of an open cut into rock slope 25 metres length, 4.5 metres wide and 9 metres deep (see Photo 2). The floor of the pit is covered by debris, hiding the central part of the pegmatite².



Sample of pegmatite



Right side of cut exposes what may be edge of a large quartz core (see Photo 3). Mineralogy consists predominantly of K-feldspar, quartz and lesser amounts of plagioclase feldspar.

Mine Location

The Spectacle Lake mine is on the west side of Spectacle Lake Road, 550 metres (0.55 km) from junction with Hwy 60. Look for tailings spill that is partially visible from the road (see Photo 1). From this point follow a bearing of 247° (magnetic north) for about 30 metres to locate mine hidden in the forest.





Photo 1. Spectacle Lake mine tailings spill along west side of Spectacle Lake Road.

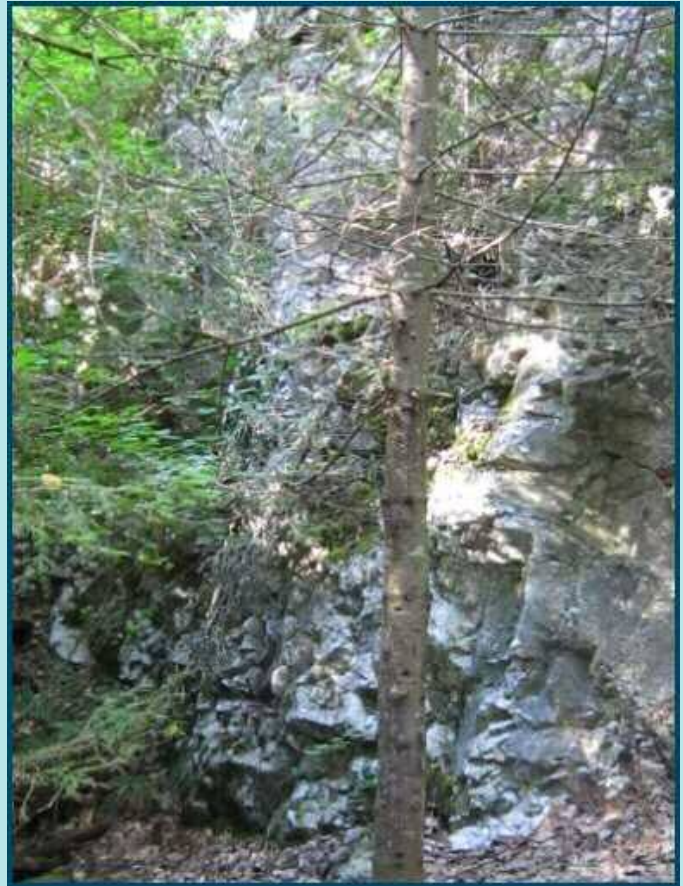


Photo 3. Right side wall of Spectacle Lake mine.



Photo 2. Front, bottom to Spectacle Lake mine. Note rubble at bottom.

GPS UTM Coordinates

Zone: 18 T Datum: NAD83

Tailings spill E 276256.6
N 5046131.7

Spectacle Lake Mine E 276242.4
N 5046122.2

1. Wolfsden Lake was renamed in January 1965 to present day Spectacle Lakes.
2. 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.