



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

www.focs.ca

PHONE: 250-725-4218

info@focs.ca

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Mining in Clayoquot: a short history



Image D-01359 courtesy of Royal BC Museum, BC Archives

In 1900, Carl Binns and James Sutton pan for gold at Wreck Bay (now Florencia Bay in Pacific Rim National Park).

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Falco Mueller

The current threat of potential mines –Fandora gold and Catface copper– is the latest development in the 150-year history of mining in Clayoquot Sound.

In the second half of the 1800s, North America was seized by gold fever as several gold rushes (California 1848-58, Fraser River 1858-63, Cariboo 1862, Klondike 1897-99) inspired intrepid prospectors to flock west and north.

By 1862 the mining industry in British Columbia had become established. The government had laws in place and coal mines on the east coast of Vancouver Island around Nanaimo were in steady production.

In 1865 the first government-run mining expedition arrived in Clayoquot Sound. Two crews led by John Buttle surveyed the Bedwell and Ursus valleys. Their initial reports were optimistic that money could be made from pan-

ning the soils of Bedwell valley for gold. Their report brought a rush of miners to Clayoquot Sound and started a fifty-year period where mineral exploration and speculative investments abounded in the Bedwell. At the height of the boom, a small town with a hotel and brothel was in full swing at the head of Bedwell Inlet.

By 1886 British Columbia was Canada's biggest producer of copper and other base metals, but no major findings had been made in Clayoquot Sound.

The 1890s saw considerable surveying in the Kennedy watershed. Though no profitable deposits were ever discovered, the activity led to construction of a wagon track that originated in Port Alberni and descended into Clayoquot Sound from Sutton Pass – approximately the same route that is followed by our highway today.

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Strathcona Park was established in 1911 and included upper Bedwell valley. Placement of Strathcona Park with apparent disregard for mining operations unfortunately led to legal challenges and subsequent downscaling of various parts of Strathcona from class A to class B park where mineral extraction is allowed. To this day the legacy of old claims continues in Nyrstar's active Myra Falls zinc-copper mine.

Exploration for major projects started in the 20th century. In the late 1930s, a gold vein was discovered in Tranquil Creek. The Pandora property changed hands many times as development of an underground mine struggled from the 1940s to 1964 to extract profitable ore.

The earliest known exploration of Catface Mountain's copper deposit occurred in 1898. In 1960, mining giant Falconbridge staked the claim when two of its prospectors noticed green staining in a cliff face. Hoping to develop an open-pit mine, Falconbridge explored from 1961 to 1979, and again from 1989 to 1990. It then cancelled work on the project due to delays in obtaining permits caused by the Clayoquot land use controversy over logging.

Fandora and Catface are held by Imperial Metals today and are at the exploratory stage of development. The lure of finding minerals lives on. But the social and ecological consequences of modern large-scale mining are severe. Industrial extraction of metals has immediate and long-term impacts on the landscape, such as release of pollutants and destruction of animal habitat, and may require hundreds of years of remediation.

Emery Hartley &
Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Sources: Wet Coast Ventures and Clayoquot Soundings by prospector Walter Guppy, and Long Beach Wild by local author Adrienne Mason.

Tla-o-qui-aht renew call for mining ban amidst ongoing Mount Polley crisis

The August 4th toxic tailings spill at the Mount Polley copper-gold mine near Williams Lake in interior BC has largely fallen out of the main media dialogue, yet the crisis continues. Imperial Metals says it may take up to six months to plug the ruptured tailings pond dam, so runoff from the tailings sludge will continue to pollute the area throughout the fall rains. A water consumption ban was issued for the town of Likely and surrounding areas, then lifted, then reinstated and lifted again. The Williams Lake and Soda Creek First Nations burned a sacred fire and bore witness to the disaster. Imperial Metals had to announce the mine spill is at least three times larger than it had originally estimated – at 25 million cubic metres, it's the largest in Canadian history.

Imperial Metals, the owner-operator of Mount Polley, also owns two mineral properties in Clayoquot Sound: the Catface Mountain copper deposit in Ahousaht territory and the Pandora gold formation in Tranquil Valley in Tla-o-qui-aht territory. Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations continue to call for a ban

on mining in their territories.

"We stand by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in this," said Emery Hartley, campaigner for Friends of Clayoquot Sound. "This spill exhibits how short-sighted our current mining regime is, and how poorly it fits with Clayoquot Sound. Can you imagine Imperial managing a tailings pond in an area that gets over three meters of rain every year and is at risk for earthquakes and tsunamis? We need a mining ban here and will work until we have one."

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and their allies have been stalling Imperial Metals' plans for exploratory drilling at Pandora for four years. Despite a clear lack of consultation, last year the BC government granted a permit to conduct that drilling. Tla-o-qui-aht took the fight to the political arena, meeting the Minister of Mines and firing off letters, and so far have held Imperial off from drilling.

"Our Hawi (Hereditary Chiefs) are not just fighting mining for ourselves and our territory, but see ourselves as stewards of the territory for our Muschim (citizens) and all the people who live here.

Continued on next page.





Interfor is back in Clayoquot

International Forest Products (Interfor) is back in Clayoquot Sound after a 7-year absence. You may be wondering, “Didn’t the ‘war in the woods’ and markets campaigns chase the big logging corporations out of here years ago?”

In 2005, Weyerhaeuser (which had bought out MacMillan Bloedel) sold the Clayoquot portion of its logging tenure to First Nations-owned Iisaak Forest Resources. In 2007, Interfor also sold its Clayoquot Tree Farm License to First Nations, but it still holds a Forest License in northern Clayoquot Sound.

Interfor has now applied to build about 6 km of roads in Clayoquot, in the headwaters of streams that flow into the west side of Boat Basin/Hesquiaht Harbour, in Hesquiaht First Nation’s traditional territory. Logging is scheduled for next summer – about 40,000 cubic metres of old-growth wood (equivalent to 40,000 telephone poles).

Hesquiaht First Nation territory is already crisscrossed by logging roads and scarred by clearcuts and landslides from decades of logging by, in sequence, BC Forest Products, Fletcher Challenge, and Interfor.

In August, Interfor began logging again in Hesquiaht First Nation territory, in the Escalante Valley of Nootka Sound, just north of the divide with Clayoquot Sound. Hesquiaht’s Fisheries Officer raced up and delivered an eviction notice to Interfor. The company stopped logging and agreed to a 60-day community consultation. Whatever previous “consultation/information sharing” had happened to satisfy the BC government to issue the Escalante cut permit does not satisfy Hesquiaht.

On this side of the divide, in Clayoquot Sound, it’s unclear what level of consultation with Hesquiaht had happened before Interfor submitted its road permit application (still not approved as of this writing). It remains to be seen if Hesquiaht will now challenge this road permit.

We’re excited to see the Hesquiaht nation coming together to assert their aboriginal title and rights to protect their land.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Continued from page 2.

Both the First Nations and non-First Nations people here are working hard to build a sustainable economy, and continue to develop tourism. A mine is not in anyone’s best interest,” said Elmer Frank, Tla-o-qui-aht elected councillor. “Since the recent Tsilhqot’in victory at the Supreme Court of Canada, and the victory of our five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations earlier this year, recognizing the right to a commercial fishery, our Hawiith certainly don’t intend to let Imperial Metals, or any company they may sell their rights to, come here and do any mining activity.”

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations recently announced an expansion of their Tribal Parks to encompass all of Tla-o-qui-aht Hereditary Chiefs’ unceded territory, in part to make clear they will not allow any mining activity in their traditional territory.

“In light of the recent Imperial Metals Mount Polley environmental catastrophe with the breach of its tailings pond, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations remain steadfast in our Hereditary Chiefs’ opposition to such irresponsible resource management by both industry and government. The Tla-o-qui-aht peoples and our supporters are committed to preventing Imperial Metals from doing any mining exploration and activities within Onadsilth-Eelseuklis, otherwise known as Pandora, in Tranquil Valley,” said Terry Dorward, Tla-o-qui-aht elected councillor.

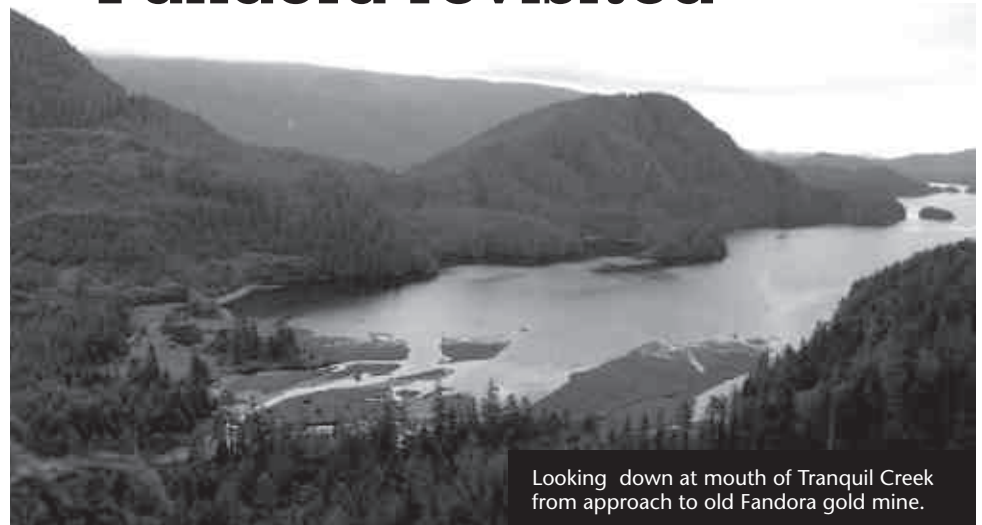
**Updated from an August 14, 2014
news release by Tla-o-qui-aht
First Nations and Friends
of Clayoquot Sound.**

Tranquil Creek adventure: Fandora revisited

This summer, a team of Friends of Clayoquot Sound volunteers returned to Tranquil Valley to monitor the state of the ecosystems around the old Fandora gold mine. Imperial Metals, which now owns the Fandora claim, has an exploratory drilling permit to assess re-activating and expanding the mine. We were happy to confirm that Imperial has not acted on this permit to date.

The team arrived in Tranquil Inlet by boat and got dropped off on shore, close to the mouth of the creek. We ducked under the tree line and wrestled our way through the forest to get up to a logging road, which we hiked along for six kilometres. After setting up camp along the gravel road, we began trekking up the mountainside to find the location of the old Fandora mine shafts.

Although our GPS coordinates told us the mine shafts were approximately one kilometre from the road, it took us about three hours to travel a portion of that distance. At first we traversed a dense section of second-growth forest. Then we entered old-growth forest, much more friendly to hikers. The ground was covered with a healthy balance of moss, shrubs, and large cedars, spruce and hemlock. As we got further up the mountain it became steeper and we ran into several rock



Looking down at mouth of Tranquil Creek from approach to old Fandora gold mine.

FOCS

faces, which made proceeding towards our goal challenging.

Although we never reached the mine shafts, we got a better idea of how remote these locations are. During the ascent we came across old cables, which we believe were used to deliver ore down the mountainside from the 1940s to 1960s. We also came across two, helicopter-accessed, patches of land that were logged five years ago. Although this destruction of nature was sad to see, it provided a large opening in the forest, allowing a view of the valley below.

The descent was quick and easy, thanks to the flags we had placed on the way up. We got back to camp with

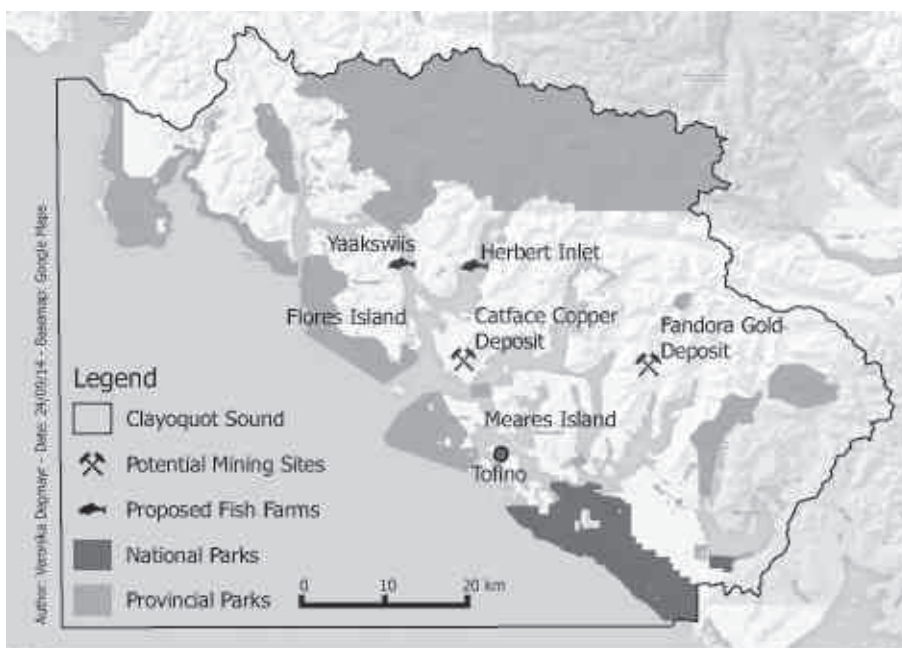
plenty of daylight to make dinner and have a swim in the crystal-clear creek.

In the morning we split into two groups. The first group looked at the acidity of Tranquil Creek and its tributaries to determine whether the tributary that came from the old mine shafts is more acidic than other tributaries further up the creek. Mines are known for creating acid mine drainage, one of their most harmful impacts. The preliminary findings tell us that in fact the mine tributary is more acidic. Future trips may help us establish a link between the old mine and existing water conditions.

The second group did forest surveys in old-growth and second-growth forest. The 30-40 year-old second-growth forest had a uniform, dense canopy that blocked the sun and prevented any ground vegetation from growing. In contrast, the old-growth was much more biodiverse, with varying canopy levels that let in light. It is this type of habitat that the endangered marbled murrelet nests in, one of the reasons why protecting these old-growth forests is so vital.

After packing up camp, we walked back down the logging road and down to the mouth of the creek. We waded through the water to get to a better pick up point and then it was back to Tofino.

Boyd Cameron
FOCS summer intern



To inquire about internships,
email info@focs.ca

Cermaq applies for 2 new salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound

Cermaq Canada has applied for two new open net-pen Atlantic salmon farm sites in Clayoquot Sound. The proposed sites are Herbert Inlet and Yaakswiis/Millar Channel adjacent to Flores Island. These sites, if approved, will form part of a gauntlet of five active salmon farms clogging Millar Channel and Herbert Inlet and will increase the total number of sites in Clayoquot Sound to twenty-two.

The new sites are part of a wave of salmon farm expansions in BC since the federal government lifted a province-wide moratorium on expansion in 2013 (only the Discovery Islands remain under moratorium). The moratorium had

been in effect pending the outcome of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye Salmon. Although the feds lifted the ban on expansion, they continue to ignore most of the recommendations contained in the 2012 Cohen Commission Report, particularly those dealing with salmon aquaculture.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound remain deeply concerned about the impact open net-pen aquaculture is having on wild salmon populations in Clayoquot Sound. FOCS attended the Cermaq/government open house in force and published an online letter-writing tool to put pressure on our elected represen-

tatives to turn the tide on salmon farm expansion. We also continue to champion alternatives (see the article on page 7 about the Kuterra closed containment land-based salmon farm).

Friends of Clayoquot Sound were not alone in contesting the two new sites. An alliance of NGOs including Watershed Watch Salmon Society and Save Our Salmon Marine Conservation Foundation sent a strong submission to government highlighting the uncertainty around new sites and the ecological risks posed by salmon aquaculture expansion. These groups continue to work with FOCS providing research and access to projects such as Kuterra.

Emery Hartley

Healthy wild salmon populations are of critical importance to BC's economy and coastal ecology. Take action to help wild salmon at focs.ca/letter/stop-salmon-farm-expansion-in-bc

Thanks to donors and volunteers

Donations and volunteer time from our supporters keep Friends of Clayoquot Sound in action. Your generosity provides the resources we use to keep on top of logging activities, mining plans, salmon farm expansions, and to resist industrialization of this beautiful place. With your help, we achieve a lot for a small organization!

Thank you to all our donors!

Although monthly donations are the most effective method to support our research and campaigning, all donations are appreciated. You can donate by cheque, online with a credit card, or monthly directly through your bank account. Use the donation form in the newsletter, or click on the "Donate" button on our web site. For more information, contact board member Eileen Floody at eileen@focs.ca



Volunteers staff FOCS info booth at Tofino summer market.

Eileen Floody

Thank you, volunteers!

Our volunteers are amazing people who donate time and expertise. Here are just some of them who contributed this year:

Barb Campbell
Boyd Cameron
David Floody
David Ratcliffe

Eileen Floody
Emily Arnold
Falco Mueller
Forrest Stevens

Gillian Nicol
Greg Blanchette
Marion Syme
Michael Mullin
Nancy Powis

Pat Canning
Robert Zurowski
Stephen Ashton
Veronika Degmayr

Plus many more come out to support our events and actions.

Eileen Floody



Nancy Powis

Weeping Cedar Woman to remain in Tofino

The District of Tofino and artist Godfrey Stephens have reached an agreement about the acquisition and siting of Weeping Cedar Woman, an iconic statue Godfrey carved in 1984 in response to MacMillan Bloedel's logging plan for Meares Island. The plan was never realized due to local opposition.

The statue stands 16 feet tall and is designed to rest on a 5 foot base, so she towers 21 feet above the ground. Two giant streaming tears 'flow' from her eyes to the ground, representing the grief she feels for the destruction of the earth. One of her hands is raised up, saying "stop," while the other points to the land, beseeching the beholder to think about the place they are in. The statue is a visual manifesto reminding us to hold the earth in all our thoughts.

Over the last six months, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Carving on the Edge Society, Tofino Arts Council, Tofino-Clayoquot Heritage Society, District of Tofino, and many other partners and community members worked hard to fundraise for the acquisition of this art piece, part of Tofino's history. The statue returned to Tofino in April, and as of early September, enough funds had been raised to acquire her from the artist and install her permanently on district property. Sincere thanks to all who donated!

Now Weeping Cedar Woman will be installed in Tofino's Village Green. Be sure to visit her next time you're strolling through the centre of town.

Emery Hartley

NO TANKERS citizens' initiative in BC

Imagine your coast as a tap – one you cannot shut off – and the sole purpose for that tap is supplying hydrocarbons to the largest economy on the planet.

It is a worrying and not-too-distant future for coastal communities if British Columbians cannot assemble a front of opposition to bitumen export pipelines. Dogwood Initiative began to train its focus on Enbridge in 2007, and launched the NoTankers.ca campaign in 2011. The strategy used novel tactics to awaken the public to the implications of Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline from Alberta's tar sands to Kitimat on BC's northern coast.

Fast forward to today and pipelines and tankers face daily media coverage because British Columbians have come to understand these projects are not worth the risk. Despite aggressive advertising and continuous strategy changes on Enbridge's part, a skeptical public has not been swayed. The

Kitimat plebiscite proved that. However, with the National Energy Board seemingly rigged to guarantee pipeline approval, Kinder Morgan's planned pipeline and tanker traffic expansion in Vancouver, and decades of hard-won environmental protection legislation eliminated through omnibus bills, adjustments were also required on our part.

Following Gateway's approval in June, First Nations use of the courts to defend their rights is an obvious step - but what about the rest of us? Here in BC we have a legislative muscle called the citizens' initiative. By upscaling the coastal focused NoTankers campaign to the provincial level, everyday British Columbians are organizing to launch our democratic insurance policy if the province issues the permits these proposals need. To flex that muscle, Dogwood is deploying teams in every



Dogwood Initiative

riding. Join us as we ramp up to protect our democracy. Alberta and China want to enrich their super-corporations off your back and Ottawa is facilitating. Who gets to decide what your energy future looks like? **LetBCVote.ca**

Dave Mills

Dogwood Initiative
Provincial Organizer -
Vancouver Island North
Cell: 250-650-3444

Join us in **Nationbuilder**
bcorganize.ca/join?recruiter_id=190



Kuterra L.P.

Kuterra closed containment salmon farm. Water from the round fish tanks is pumped through various filters and recirculated back into the tanks.

Closed containment: a better way to farm salmon

On September 8th, Eric Hobson, president of Save Our Salmon and Director of the Kuterra aquaculture company, came to Clayoquot Sound to talk about the future of finfish aquaculture. Eric's mission to Clayoquot came after wild salmon enthusiast and FOCS volunteer Dave Ratcliffe crossed Vancouver Island to visit the Namgis First Nation's land-based closed containment Kuterra farm south of Port McNeill to see the viability of this new technology. Impressed by the potential of the Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) used by Kuterra to eliminate many of the harmful environmental impacts of ocean-based net-pen salmon farming, Dave set out to bring awareness of this technology to the west coast of Vancouver Island, where conventional net-pen salmon aquaculture is expanding.

Mr. Hobson was clear in his presentation to Tofino District Council that Kuterra was started in part to prove what numerous reports have been saying for years: that Atlantic salmon can be farmed in closed containment without harming BC's wild salmon populations and still meet the growing global demand for seafood. There are numerous advantages to

closed containment aquaculture, and Eric's presentation to Tofino Council proved that these advantages are no longer just theoretical.

Kuterra's Atlantic salmon are raised in a clean and entirely self-contained environment. Transfer of pathogens between farmed and wild salmon is virtually impossible as the Kuterra site is over 1 km from the ocean and all fish are disease-free when they enter the production facility. Predator control is not required, as there is no way that predators such as seals and sea lions can interact with the farmed fish. Even the use of antibiotics and chemicals to reduce parasites is not needed. Eric's conclusion: closed containment is not only better for wild salmon, it also produces farmed fish that are healthier and safer for consumption.

Tofino Council raised concerns about energy, water, and land use, but apparently closed containment aquaculture has it all figured out. The terrestrial footprint is much lower than the equivalent marine footprint. Energy use at the Kuterra facility is reduced by limiting water discharge, and using heat pumps and good insu-

lation. Even water use can be limited – there is one RAS project in Nova Scotia that claims the only water to leave its facility will be the water in its products. Concerns remain about the use of wild fish in the feed for farmed salmon, but apparently there is a 30% reduction in the feed used to raise closed containment salmon when compared with open net-pen salmon farming.

While the salmon farming industry is still a long way from making the transition to closed containment, it is exciting to see how far the technology has come. Recirculating Aquaculture System technology is the future of finfish aquaculture. FOCS will continue to put pressure on governments and industry to protect our wild salmon by expediting the shift to closed containment.

Emery Hartley
campaigner with
Friends of Clayoquot Sound

For questions, comments or
to help with this campaign
contact him at emery@focs.ca

Support the Wild!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate and inspire people. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on Earth.

Visit our website to find more ways to help. **www.focs.ca**

Send your donation to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Box 489, Tofino, BC,

Canada V0R 2Z0

Ph: 250-725-4218

Office: 1160 Pacific Rim Hwy, Tofino

info@focs.ca

www.focs.ca



Testimonial

I remember as a child hearing stories of the people who struggled to protect Clayoquot Sound, but I did not understand the full weight of their work until I walked with my children through the ancient forests riddled with roots and shrouded in mist. I was in awe, and so overcome with gratitude for the First Nations groups and peaceful protesters who rose up to save this place, and for those who continue to do so. Their efforts are legend in my mind. Legend that speaks to what people can do, what people can protect if we simply open our eyes and our hearts.

I am an outsider, but this wild and wondrous place is my own. It belongs to my spirit, and I belong to it. It belongs to my children. It belongs to us all. And we are forever indebted to its warriors.

Jill Yanch

FOCS donor, Edmonton, Alberta

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