

History 340 – Coal Tyee Mine Project: Rough Draft

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Harewood Mine:

"Harewood Mine South Of Nanaimo. - RBCM Archives". 1875. *Search-Bcarchives.Royalbcmuseum.Bc.Ca.* <http://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/harewood-mine-south-of-nanaimo>.

"Harewood Mines Tour". 2016. Nanaimoinformation.Com.

<http://www.nanaimoinformation.com/forum/showthread.php?5281-Harewood-Mines-Tour>.

The Harwood Mine began its operation by transferring buckets of coal by tram on Cameron Island, the mine quickly grew into a highly producing mine exhuming over 750,000 tonnes of coal in the 46 years it functioned (with a few years while it was closed). Running from 1875 till late 1920 and early 1921, the mine was a larger hub for many of the coal miners in the greater Nanaimo area. The Harewood Mine is located off of what today is Harewood road, close to the location of the Harewood Fire Hall. This mine was a walk in mine, somewhat different than the more common shaft mines that surrounded it in the Nanaimo area. Walk in mines went horizontally into the hillside requiring no need for an elevator or lift. Ironically because the mine was above sea level it was more dangerous due to the looser earth. The workers constructed a tramway from the mine to a loading facility on Cameron Island, they used this to load up carts with coal and transfer them to the loading dock. This mine was owned by a family known as the Cunninghams, but managed by a man named Dunsmuir. As time went on the mine

experienced a few small changes, eventually a stable was built to accommodate the horses which the miners used to travel to the mine site, wages were altered during the First World War, and the flu epidemic claimed a multitude of lives and caused great turmoil within the Harewood mine camp. As time went on the mine was eventually abandoned, in 1968 two adventurers were killed after sitting down in the mine and inhaling the carbon monoxide, they were found 10 years later by another group of adventurers.

Beban:

"Heritage Register - Beban House". 2016. *Nanaimo.Ca*.
http://www.nanaimo.ca/Heritage/detail.aspx?id=1&zoom_highlight=go.

D., Andy. 2012. "Looking For The Old Beban Coal Mine". *Candiedfrogsmonologues.Blogspot.Ca.*
<http://candiedfrogsmonologues.blogspot.ca/2012/07/looking-for-old-beban-coal-mine.html>.

In 1935 Frank Beban (founder of the Beban Logging Company) opened the Beban mine site close off of Nanaimo Lakes road, near the Extension area. Closing in 1941 after two large floods in Northfield and Beban, the mine had removed over 75,000 tonnes from the earth. Flooding was a continuous danger in the Beban Mine, almost all flooding was caused due to a breach into the old Extention Mine which Beban also sourced its coal. One flood caused Jonny Senini to be stuck within the 110-foot level. At 3:30 pm the rescuers made their way down into the 110-foot level and heard a tapping coming from inside the mine. This was Johnny using an old technique to let everyone know he needed rescuing. It took until 10:30 p.m. to get Jonny (and Louis Tognello) out of the mine. Even worse, on June 11th 1937 a large scale flood (at the 400 foot level) at the Beban site mine claimed three lives of local miners: Adam Garr, along with Joe and Nelson Sheppard, who were cousins. Ten men were working at the time and five of them rode

the crest of the water to safety. Ridgeway, R. Wilson a mining engineer was appointed to conduct a commission into the flooding and investigate the happenings to determine if negligence on the mine officials or government inspectors had led to the flooding and subsequent deaths. The entire surrounding area close to Beban was considered a “Mining Town”, meaning that the entire local economy thrived on the production and industry caused by the single mine. In January 1938, Beban and Chamber mines signed the “equalized day wages” bringing all miners to five dollars and fifty cents per day, a considerable raise than their wage beforehand. Today, you can visit a memorial site at the Beban house near Altrusa, which is a potential attraction for anyone interested in exploring the mining history of the Beban area.

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Images:

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