

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES
Map 34-1965: Lead content of stream and spring sediments

Geological

South of a line following the Millstream River and westward through Tetagouche Lakes, the area is underlain mainly by the Ordovician Tetagouche Group comprising a series of complexly folded and sheared metasediments, metavolcanics, and metabasic intrusives. These are intruded south of Bathurst by a granitic mass.

North of the Millstream River the rocks are mainly of Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian age. The Elmtree Group, of probable Ordovician age, is composed of metasediments and some metavolcanics which are intruded by a granitic stock in the vicinity of Antinouri Lake. The Silurian and Devonian rocks comprise both sediments and volcanics that are faulted in places, gently folded, and on the whole are less metamorphosed than the older rocks in the district. In the Nicholas Dénys area the Silurian rocks are intruded by a granitic stock that has an associated metamorphic aureole in which the rocks are mainly hornfels and skarn. Another granitic stock intrudes Silurian volcanic rocks along the South Benjamin River.

East of Nepisiguit River the area is underlain by the Pennsylvanian Bathurst Formation. These rocks are mainly siltstones, sandstones, grits, and conglomerates that dip gently eastward.

Flat-lying conglomerates and sandstones (Bonaventure Formation), possibly of Triassic age, underlie Heron Island and fringe the coast in the Jacquet River area.

Glacial till, sand, and gravel mantle the whole district, and recent post-glacial sands and clays cover much of the area around Bathurst Harbour and occur in the shore section at Jacquet River.

The principal mineral deposits in the area are massive, vein, and disseminated deposits containing essentially iron, zinc, lead, and copper sulphides. Molybdenite occurrences are associated with the Bathurst, Nicholas Dénys, and Antinouri Lake granitic bodies.

The text of the paper accompanying this map should be consulted for further details of the geology and economic geology of the district.

Geochemical

The analyses recorded on this map were done on samples of sediment collected from the channels of rivers and streams and from rivulets flowing from springs. Where possible the active channels were sampled, but in a few cases the residual sediment of dried-up streams was used. In muskeg areas and in streams where beaver workings are present the sediment contained abundant organic matter.

The sediment was dried, sieved to -80 mesh, ground to -150 mesh, and analyzed for lead according to the procedure outlined by Gilbert (1964)¹. The values are expressed in parts per million. The subdivisions used on the map are arbitrary and based on experience in the district. The lowest subdivision can be taken to represent the background.

All streams and rivers were traversed on foot, and the stream sediments were collected, where possible, at intervals of 1,500 feet.

The lead content of the stream and spring sediments range from 5 to 3,300 ppm. The background for the whole district is about 25 ppm, but in some areas the background may be as low as 10 ppm. This indicates that the values obtained for each stream or group of streams should be considered individually.

Most of the known sulphide deposits in the district are marked by higher than normal contents of lead in the neighbouring stream sediments. Examples are South Little River (Brunswick No. 12 deposit, south of the map-area), Fortymile Brook (Cariboo deposit, west of the map-area), Orvan Brook (Orvan Brook deposit), and Elmtree River (Keymet mine).

Numerous examples of streams with sediment containing higher than average amounts of lead occur in virgin areas and are unrelated to known deposits or contaminating agencies. A few of the more important of these that should receive further investigation are the upper reaches of Roughwater Brook, a number of the tributaries of the Millstream River, Wild Cat Brook, the three streams draining southeast into the South Tetagouche River, a number of the streams draining into Fortymile Brook, Guitar Brook, Fournier Brook, Ellis Brook, Lake Brook and the tributary of the Belledune River to the southwest, one of the southwest tributaries of the Elmtree River, North Nigadoo River, Hendry Brook, the middle reaches of Nash Creek, the Jack Burns Lakes drainage system of Louison Creek, and a number of streams draining southeast into the Jacquet River south of Big Hole Brook. The last group of anomalies appears to be related to the northeast trending faults west of Jacquet River.

The lead anomalies in the stream sediments are generally coincident with heavy metal anomalies in the water. There is also a general correlation of the lead contents of the sediments with those for copper, zinc, and arsenic, and with molybdenum in certain streams.

The presence of abundant manganese hydroxides and oxides (Map 44-1965) may be a factor in the localization of lead in some of the anomalous streams. Manganese hydroxides (and hydrated oxides) strongly adsorb lead and hence may give false anomalies. This feature should be carefully considered when evaluating all anomalies on this sheet. The coincidence of heavy metal (mainly zinc) water anomalies with many of the stream sediment anomalies seems to suggest, however, that many of the latter are valid anomalies and only enhanced by the presence of manganese.

The lead content of the stream and spring sediments shown on this map should be compared with the heavy metal content of stream and spring waters shown on Map 32-1965, and also with the contents of individual elements recorded on Maps 35-1965 to 44-1965 inclusive.

¹Gilbert, M. A. : Field and laboratory methods used by the Geological Survey of Canada in geochemical surveys; No. 1, Laboratory methods for determining copper, zinc, and lead; Geol. Surv. Can., Paper 59-3 (1964).