

GEOLGY OF THE GATINEAU PARK (SOUTH PART) AND SURROUNDING AREA

INTRODUCTION

This report is mainly concerned with Precambrian rocks which form a positive wedge between the lowlands of the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers. The map covers an area of about 65 square miles; its centre is about 10 miles northwest of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa and can easily be reached via Quebec Highway 11, the Mine Road or the Mountain Road. The rather irregular map-area was chosen to straddle a pronounced linear feature, the Eardley Escarpment, and to include the interesting petrographic areas near Meach Lake and the Forsyth Mine. Rock exposure is good but much of the syenite is obscured by swamp.

The Precambrian geology has previously been investigated only by reconnaissance surveys. A geological map of a large area surrounding Ottawa, on the scale of approximately 1 inch = 4 miles, was published by MacDonald (1968). An area extending southwest to within half a mile of the present map was mapped in detail by Beland (1954). Another area, extending eastward to within 1 mile of the southwest corner of the present survey, was mapped by Sabourin (1965). The Paleozoic geology was described by Wilson (1946), the hydrogeology by Brandon (1961), and the surficial geology by Gadd (1962). A number of field excursions in the area have been described by the writer (Hogarth, 1962).

TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSLIDES

Relief is moderate, with elevations reaching 1317 feet in the western part of the area and a low of 210 feet in the valley of Breckenridge Creek (N.T.S. sheet 31G/2d). The most prominent topographic feature is the Eardley Escarpment, which fronts the Ottawa Valley and rises to a maximum of 900 feet above it on its northeastern margin. Northward the ridge drops steeply to the valley containing Meach and Harrington Lakes, about 650 feet below. The valley forms a prominent depression parallel to the Eardley Escarpment. Still further north hills rise 200 feet above this valley.

The two Lakes, Meach and Harrington, cover a considerable portion of the northwest section. Meach, Harrington, Kingsmere and Pinks Lakes have well defined margins, but others, such as Black, Mud, Fortune, Mulvihill and Fairy Lakes, tend to have swampy shorelines. Lakes are shallow, the maximum depth being about 70 feet at Fortune Lake.

Unstable marine clays are well known near the Ottawa River and tributary streams. The sensitivity or strength of the clay on remolding is low, commonly less than 1% of the original strength in local clays (Crawford, 1961). Because of this, clays liquify on slight disturbance, flowing downhill and carrying with them topsoil, trees and large blocks of undisturbed clay. The resulting scars are typically crescentic with the open end crescent pointing downhill in the direction of flow.

The Ottawa Valley is scarred by recent and ancient landslides with individual scars up to 15 square miles near Hawkesbury, Ontario. In the map-area landslip scars are

Paleozoic sedimentary rocks (units 15-17)

Paleozoic (Middle Ordovician) rocks crop out only in the lowlands and were deposited on an extremely irregular surface. Non-fossiliferous Nepean Sandstone (15), containing only quartz and a very small quantity of pyrite, is present as several small outcrops on a branch of Chelsea Brook north of the Mine Road. Sparsely fossiliferous arenaceous limestones and calcareous siltstones of the Rockcliffe Formation (16) occur in the southwest and southeast portions of the map-sheet. In the southeast area there is a considerable amount of detrital arenite of unknown provenance. The Black River and Trenton Limestones of the Ottawa Formation (17) are highly fossiliferous and relatively pure, but generally become arenaceous and barren near the Eardley Fault. This may indicate that an escarpment existed in Ordovician time and that any fossils were destroyed by subsequent faulting. However, it should be noted that outcrops of Trenton and Black River limestones are rare; the outcrops exposed in widening of the Mountain Road in 1961 were later covered over.

Structural Geology of Precambrian and Paleozoic rocks

Folds in Precambrian rocks in the northern part of the area tend to be isoclinal. Most have steeply dipping axial planes. North of Old Chelsea axial planes trend northwards whereas south of the Champlain Lookout they trend east (see inset map). This trend of axial planes contrasts markedly with those of folds immediately to the east (west of Black Lake) where axial planes bear N20°E. Similar contrasting trends are found north of Meach Lake. Proceeding south and east from Kingsmere, folds open out with axial planes trending northeast. In general, mineral lineations parallel major fold axes, which vary from east-west, with low plunge, to northeast with 45° plunge. A second set of folds with axes trending N50°W and plunging 40-60° in that direction appears to be later because it truncates the northeast-trending set.

The Paleozoic rocks dip gently northeastward, although near large faults the dip steepens. For instance in the southeast corner of the map-sheet dips up to 50°E are encountered; more rarely the direction of dip is reversed.

Prominent linear features, at least some of post-Precambrian age, run transversely across the Precambrian ridge and trend N55-85°E. The most prominent of these contains Mud Lake and crosses Marshall and Stalom hills at Camp Fortune. It has several shatter zones sealed with calcite, quartz, and chlorite. A linear extension can be traced eastward to the Gatineau River and thence 10 miles to the River Petite Blanche. It is interesting that such a large, linear feature shows little horizontality.

Large faults, trending N60-70°W, are marked by discontinuous shatter zones that are either open or are sealed by coarse calcite and barite. Some have produced zones of chlorite and mylonite in the surrounding rocks. Most transect the N55-85°E system and are, at least in part, post-Trenton. The Eardley Fault can be traced along the Mountain Road for 1.7 miles with a possible westward extension reappearing after another 1.2 miles and continuing for 800 feet. The Eardley Fault is downthrown on its south side, whereas the Hull-Gloucester Fault to the southeast is downthrown on its

GÉOLOGIE DE LA PARTIE SUD DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU RÉGION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE D.D. Hogarth

INTRODUCTION

Ce rapport concerne essentiellement les roches précambriniennes formant un triangle entre les parties basses des vallées des rivières d'Outaouais et Gatineau. La carte couvre une région d'une superficie d'environ 65 milles carrés dont le centre est situé approximativement à 10 milles au nord-ouest des édifices du Parlement à Ottawa et dont l'accès est aisé par la route du Québec 11, le chemin de la Mine ou le chemin de la Montagne. La région chevauche un linéament prononcé: l'escarpement d'Eardley et comprend les régions d'intérêt pétrologique situées près du lac Meach et de la Mine Forsyth. Les affleurements sont généralement bons mais une grande partie de la syénite est cachée par le marécage.

La géologie précambrienne a été étudiée auparavant que par des levés de reconnaissance. Une carte géologique à grande échelle (1 pouce = 4 milles) des environs d'Ottawa a été publiée par MacDonald (1968). L'étude détaillée d'une zone s'étendant vers le sud à 1/2 mile de cette carte a été entreprise par Beland (1954).

La carte d'une autre région s'étendant vers l'est de l'extrémité sud-ouest de cette carte a été établie par Sabourin (1965). La géologie du Paléozoïque a été décrite par Wilson (1946) l'hydrogéologie par Brandon (1961) et la géologie superficielle par Gadd (1962). Le compte-rendu d'un certain nombre d'excursions dans la région a été publié par l'auteur (Hogarth, 1962).

TOPOGRAPHIE ET GLISSEMENTS DE TERRAIN

Le relief est modéré, avec des altitudes atteignant un maximum de 1,317 pieds dans la partie ouest et un minimum de 210 pieds dans la vallée du ruisseau Breckenridge. L'élément topographique le plus marqué, celui de l'escarpement Eardley, s'élève à une hauteur de 900 pieds au-dessus de la rivière nord-est de la rivière Outaouais dont elle domine la vallée. Au nord, la crête de l'escarpement s'abaisse brusquement vers la vallée des lacs Meach et Harrington, 650 pieds plus bas. Cette vallée forme une dépression importante parallèle à l'escarpement Eardley. Plus au nord, des collines s'élèvent à une hauteur de 200 pieds au-dessus de la vallée.

Les lacs Meach et Harrington (Mousseau) couvrent une grande partie de la section nord-ouest. Les rives des lacs Meach, Harrington, Kingsmere et Pink sont bien définies tandis que d'autres comme celles des lacs Black, Mud, (Bourgeois), Fortune, Mulvihill et des Fees sont de caractère marécageux. Les lacs sont peu profonds, le maximum de profondeur atteignant 70 pieds au lac Fortune.

Des argiles marines instables sont bien connues près de la rivière Outaouais et de ses tributaires. La sensibilité et résistance de l'argile au remoulage est faible, généralement moins de 1% de la résistance originale dans les argiles locales (Crawford, 1961). A cause de cela l'argile se fissure à la moindre perturbation, s'écaillent vers le bas des pentes en emportant le sol de couverture, ainsi que des planches auxiliaires sont déposées sur une surface extrêmement irrégulière. Le grès Népéen non-fossilifère (15) ne contenait que du quartz et un tout petit peu de pyrite apparut en plusieurs petits affleurements sur un bras du ruisseau Chelsea au nord du chemin de la Mine. Des calcaires arénacés peu fossilifères et des roches siliceuses calcaires de la formation de Rockcliffe (16) sont observables dans les parties sud-ouest et sud-est de la carte. Dans la région sud-est il y a une quantité considérable d'andésine détritique d'origine inconnue. Les calcaires de Black River et de Trenton de la formation d'Ottawa (17) sont très fossilifères et relativement purs mais deviennent généralement arénacés et non fossilifères près de la faille Eardley. Ceci indique peut-être la présence d'un escarpement au cours de l'Ordovician et la destruction des fossiles par des failles ultérieures. Cependant il faut noter que les affleurements de calcaire de Trenton et Black River sont rares; les affleurements mis en évidence lors de l'élargissement du chemin de la Montagne en 1961 ont été recouverts par la suite.

moyenne 75 pieds de large tandis que le filon sud est large de 200 pieds. Ils sont formés d'augite et de labrador avec un peu de magnétite et de chlorite sporadiques probablement pseudomorphe d'olivine. On ne relève pas d'autres effets rétrogradés.

MÉTAMORPHISME DES ROCHESS PRÉCAMBRIENNES

Dans la plupart des cas, la suite minérale pétitive indique que le métamorphisme régional produit les assemblages de sous-faciès granulite à hornblende (faciès granulite), mais quelques roches de la région du lac Pink suggèrent un faciès amphibolite supérieur et certains au nord d'Old Chelsea suggèrent un sous-faciès granulite à pyroxène (faciès granulite). Le métamorphisme de la dolomie impure généralement n'a pas dépassé le stade du diopside bien que les marbres à forsterite parsèment la région. Près du lac Pink le quartz co-existe généralement avec la calcite.

Superposés au métamorphisme régional on trouve des effets de contact locaux tels que la présence de wollastonite et vésuvianite dans le marbre cotoyant la syénite de Wakefield. A 15 pieds du diabase l'angle optique du microcline diminue, devenant presque nul au contact, indiquant une température élevée. Le marbre rose fait place au marbre noir près de ces filons, indiquant une réduction partielle de la calcite dans les inclusions d'hématite en graphite et magnétite.

ROCHES SÉDIMENTAIRES PALÉOZOIQUES (UNITÉS 15 A 17)

Les roches paléozoïques (Ordovician moyen) affleurent uniquement dans les vallées et sont généralement déposées sur une surface extrêmement irrégulière. Le grès Népéen non-fossilifère (15) ne contenait que du quartz et un tout petit peu de pyrite apparut en plusieurs petits affleurements sur un bras du ruisseau Chelsea au nord du chemin de la Mine. Des calcaires arénacés peu fossilifères et des roches siliceuses calcaires de la formation de Rockcliffe (16) sont observables dans les parties sud-ouest et sud-est de la carte. Dans la région sud-est il y a une quantité considérable d'andésine détritique d'origine inconnue. Les calcaires de Black River et de Trenton de la formation d'Ottawa (17) sont très fossilifères et relativement purs mais deviennent généralement arénacés et non fossilifères près de la faille Eardley. Ceci indique peut-être la présence d'un escarpement au cours de l'Ordovician et la destruction des fossiles par des failles ultérieures. Cependant il faut noter que les affleurements de calcaire de Trenton et Black River sont rares; les affleurements mis en évidence lors de l'élargissement du chemin de la Montagne en 1961 ont été recouverts par la suite.

GÉOLOGIE STRUCTURALE DES ROCHESS PRÉCAMBRIENNES ET PALÉOZOIQUES

Les plis dans les roches précambriniennes de la partie nord de la région tendent à être isoclinaux. La plupart ont des plans axiaux très redressés. Au nord d'Old Chelsea les plans axiaux sont orientés vers le sud tandis qu'au sud du belvédère Champain ils sont orientés vers l'est (voir carte). La direction des plans axiaux s'oppose de façon marquée à celle des plans situés immédiatement à l'est (à l'ouest du lac Black) et dont les plans axiaux sont orientés N 20° E. Des directions également variables sont

common along Chelsea Brook, Breckenridge Creek and Leamy Creek. The largest landslide is on the north side of Chelsea Brook near the northeastern boundary of the map and affects an area of about 135 acres. A much smaller one occurred on Breckenridge Creek, 2 1/2 miles west of Larriaults Hill, in 1963 (Crawford, 1967) toppling a small tower for auxiliary power load and thereby causing a minor brush fire.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

Most consolidated rocks in the map-area are Precambrian showing some degree of folding imposed by the latest regional metamorphism during the Grenville orogeny, 900-1,100 million years ago. They are mapped as six metamorphic units (1-6) and five weakly metamorphic units of probable igneous origin (7-11).

Precambrian metamorphic rocks (units 1-6)

Dioptase and amphibole-rich gneisses (1) are dark-green rocks commonly intruded by pink granitic dykes and sills. Outcrops of diopside gneiss in the Black Lake-Camp Fortune area show a great deal of pegmatite and are statistically mapped as the basis of a rock-type facies. There is a great variation in mineral content within the gneisses. The primary ferromagnesian minerals is sans diopside which may be altered to hornblende, although some amphibole may be primary. Phlogopite is quite common; the characteristic feldspar is oligoclase, with microcline parallel to abundant. Sphene is always present in small amounts. A coarse, dark, massive rock which characteristically contains salite, andesine and varying amounts of scapolite is also included here. A good example of this rock extends southward through the east side of the Mackenzie King Estate and ends at a swamp 3500 feet south of Kingsmere Lake.

The East of Pinks Lake grey to white aplite (2) forms a well-defined marker horizon and is composed of quartz, microcline, plagioclase and varying amounts of diopside and actinolite. Near the Mine Road the ferromagnesian minerals are altered and the rock is sheared.

Grey or brown biotite gneiss (3) is common but true pelitic assemblages are found only in the southeast end of the area where biotite-almandine gneiss prevails. Sillimanite gneiss is well developed near Pinks Lake and to the southeast. Hypersilene-garnet gneiss occurs locally in this region and also near Old Chelsea and the northwest end of Meach Lake. Cordierite gneiss was identified at several localities north and east of Pinks Lake but is not common. The plagioclase is commonly oligoclase, grading to andesine in the sillimanite and hypersilene-bearing gneisses. Albite-oligoclase is the common plagioclase in biotite gneiss below the Champlain Sea; and microcline and rarely orthoclase are the potash feldspars.

Quartzite is of two main types: thinly banded with much diopside and tremolite, and more thickly banded commonly with feldspars and phlogopite. The thinly banded type is transitional to calc-silicate rock and is included with it as unit 6. The thickly banded type (4) is more closely related to biotite gneiss but, because it can easily be distinguished from it in the field, it is classified as a distinct unit.

Most marble (5) is calcitic. The large marble bodies north of Old Chelsea, south of Kingsmere Lake and near Pinks Lake contain little other than calcite, quartz,

northern side. The latter can be traced northward through Fairy Lake as far as Gamelin Boulevard but its extension for another 1 1/2 miles can only be inferred from topography and the distribution of Precambrian and Paleozoic rocks. Another fault system, possibly also post-Trenton, extends 3000 feet northwest from Old Chelsea along the eastern side of Harrington Lake to the south of Harrington Lake is presumably a northward-dipping strand line (elevation 600 feet) at the western edge of the Penguin Field, 3/4 mile northeast of Kingsmere Lake (Johnston, 1917, pp. 17-18). A number of lower beaches in the valley leading to Kingsmere Lake from the east are also noted by Johnston. Terraces are in evidence on the Freeman Road at elevations of 255 and 310 feet. South of Pink Road beaches are developed at elevations of 305, 315, and 350 feet.

Thick unconsolidated sediments (mainly clay) of the Champlain Sea underlie the area south and east of Old Chelsea. Gadd (1962) believes these sediments were reworked by later lake water. Deep wells near the Freeman Road establish a depth of at least 200 feet of clay. Another deep trough containing Champlain sediments appears to underlie a small creek running parallel to the Mountain Road and draining westward into Lac de la Montagne. A northerly extension of this trough was shown by drilling to 400 feet deep. Here and there lens-shaped bodies of sand and gravel are exposed in pits.

Raised beaches and terraces, marking the former shoreline of the Champlain Sea, are numerous in this area but are best developed on the flat country on the flanks of the Precambrian spur. The highest strand line (elevation 690 feet) is at the western edge of the Penguin Field, 3/4 mile northeast of Kingsmere Lake (Johnston, 1917, pp. 17-18). A number of lower beaches in the valley leading to Kingsmere Lake from the east are also noted by Johnston. Terraces are in evidence on the Freeman Road at elevations of 255, 315 and 350 feet. Fossil pelecypods such as *Macoma balithica* (Linn.), *Hiatella arctica* (Linn.) and *Yoldia arctica* (Gray) may be found in many of the gravel pits of the region and are especially abundant in the Proulx Pit. It seems probable that these have been transported to their present sites from elsewhere. Pelecypods are also found in the Champlain sediments along Chelsea Brook, in Leamy Creek near the Dennison Road and at many other places.

Near the landslide on Breckenridge Creek and on a southward-flowing tributary to the northwest, are found concretions, a few of which contain fossil fish (*Malotus villosus* (Müller)).

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Mica (phlogopite) deposits occur in Precambrian units 1 to 9 but have not been found in Precambrian units 10 to 14 or in post-Precambrian rocks. They are most common in calc-silicate rocks (unit 8). Many mica deposits have accumulations of apatite and some such as those near the Mountain Road below the Champlain Lookout, contain more apatite than mica.

The mica mines were small (de Schmid, 1912) and were mostly worked from pits and trenches, a few from shafts and adits. The largest vein was followed for about 500 feet and was about 6 feet wide; the deepest working was about 150 feet below the surface. Most of the occurrences are shown on the map.

Apatite production reached its peak about 1890 and mica about 1910. No mines are now in operation but some of the old mica mines (for example the McConnell Mine near Meach Lake, the Headley Mine near the Notch Road and the Pinks Lake Mine) were reopened after 1945.

Magnetite has been mined sporadically since the 1850's from the Forsyth and Baldwin Mines. Considerable underground exploration has been done at the Forsyth Mine since 1957. The iron deposits are presently owned by Cormegimes Ltd.

Molybdenite occurs near the Champlain Lookout, where a number of trenches were dug by the National Molybdenite Co. during World War I. Small quantities of barite, feldspar and roddemal (dolomite) have been mined in the district. Limestone is now quarried from two pits off the Cook Road and sand and gravel is excavated from several large pits south of the Mountain Road.

Granite (9) is commonly pegmatitic with irregularly distributed aplite portions. Most of the pegmatites are sills such as those in the Camp Fortune - Black Lake region, which are normally unzoned and contain microcline, albite, oligoclase and quartz. The pegmatites are mostly pink but small ones in marble and calc-silicate rocks are commonly grey. Dark minerals are rare, the most common being andradite, tourmaline and augite (Kasowski and Hogarth, 1968). Pegmatites for which a relative age can be established are mainly pre-aplite, being cut by the latter although a few are post-aplite. They tend to cap tops of prominent topographic features such as McKinstrey Ridge, Kings Mountain, some of the Camp Fortune ski hills and O'Briens Hill. Pyroxene-rich granite crops out in fields below the Eardley Escarpment.

Pink aplite with alaskite composition (10) is present in an 8/10 square mile area south of Meach Lake and is best observed in McCloskey's Field. Mafic minerals are confined to radiating tuffs, orbicular structures and veins of a bluish green sodic amphibole.

Within the aplite and syenite masses are isolated occurrences of intrusive carbonate rock mostly of dolomite composition and coarsely crystalline texture (11). Carbonate replaced the foliation of the syenite, which in turn parallels the regional foliation. Some carbonate masses cut across lenses of aplite. They commonly include fragments of country rock and pyroxene imperceptibly to breccias, fractured zones and finally unfractionated country rock. Borders of the carbonatic bodies are lined with phlogopite and soda- amphibole (Hogarth, 1966).

Two small masses of coarse, greenish black peridotite (12) crop out near the Mountain Road, half a mile southwest of the Forsyth Mine. They contain about 50% clinopyroxene and the remainder is made up of approximately equal amounts of forsterite, olivine and spinel. The iron deposits are presently owned by Cormegimes Ltd.