

# The Minto Mine

-D. Pugh

Located on the Surluga Road, little remains of the Minto Mine today after thirty-four years on non-activity. Once the Minto Mine was a pioneer producer in Michipicoten, yielding over one million dollars in gold bullion since its opening in 1931 under the capable direction of Mr. Jim Knox.

The Minto was one of the first mines to begin the revival of gold mining in the Michipicoten area since its failure with the Clergue industries in 1903.

During the first gold rush in 1898 an energetic German engineer, Mr. Eldrhaf, of the Wawa Gold Mining Company had dropped the original shaft 130 feet before work was abandoned following his death in 1900.

The Minto then remained practically forgotten for years until 1921 when Mr. R.M. Patterson restaked the area and succeeded in interesting the Huronian Belt Mining Company who tested the property. A decision was made in 1926 to go ahead and work the claim, under the leadership of Mr. W.M. Goodwin, and it quickly became apparent that vast amounts of gold still remained in the Michipicoten area. The gold field quickly re-awakened from its dormant slumber with the re-establishment of numerous other mines. The Huronian Belt Mining Company, through its subsidiary, the Pioneer Syndicate, worked the Minto and the property which was known as the Cooper Gold Mines. The property was later purchased by Mr. Hind following the abandonment of work on the property by the Cooper Mines Ltd. The property comprised of 33 claims made up of the Minto, Jubilee, and other groups. Work was formerly at the Minto but was transferred to the Jubilee, where the shaft was sunk to 600 feet with a large amount of work done on five levels. Gold was processed through a 100 ton cyanide mill.

In late 1939 both mines were closed and marked an end to gold mining in the Michipicoten field for another two decades.

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