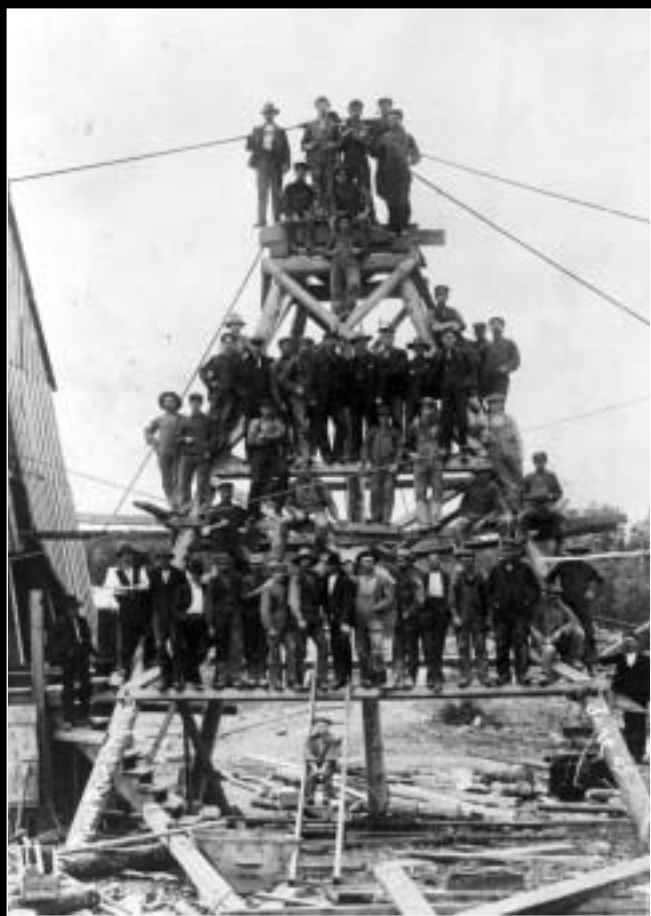


MOOSE RIVER GOLD MINES --- PROVINCIAL PARK



Located in the heart of one of Nova Scotia's earliest and richest gold mining regions, Moose River Gold Mines Provincial Park marks the site of the famous 1936 "Moose River Mine Disaster".

EARLY GOLD MINING

Although gold was discovered in this vicinity about 1866, it was not until 1876 that prospecting began in earnest. Moose River Gold Mines reached its heyday between 1890 and 1909 when several gold mines were in operation. In all, over 26,000 troy ounces of gold were taken from this area, establishing Moose River Gold Mines as one of the more productive gold districts in the province.

By 1910, however, Nova Scotia's gold mining industry was in a decline. The mines at Moose River Gold Mines operated for a few years afterwards, but were finally abandoned.



PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

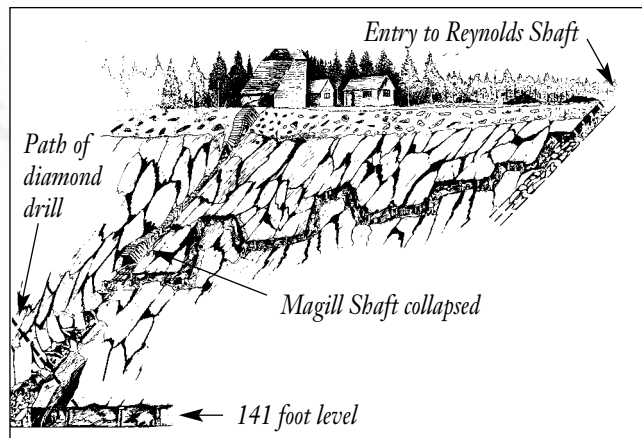
GOLD MINING RESUMED

In 1936 a gold mining syndicate headed by Herman Magill, a Toronto barrister, and Dr. David Robertson, a prominent Toronto doctor, brought renewed hopes of prosperity to Moose River Gold Mines with the reopening of one of the mines. Despite evidence that the mine was unsafe, in March of 1936 mining operations began. All of the ore removed from this mine came from rock pillars which previously had been left as roof supports. With the gradual removal of these supports the mine became increasingly unstable. Tragically no one recognized the impending danger.

JOSEPH WALKER

THE CAVE-IN AND HEROIC RESCUE

On April 12, 1936, Magill, Robertson, and Alf Scadding, the mine timekeeper, entered the Magill shaft to inspect the workings. Shortly afterwards the weakened mine collapsed, trapping the three men at the 141-foot (43-m) level. Within minutes of the cave-in, men from Moose River Gold Mines arrived at the scene and immediately began rescue operations. They were soon joined by miners from nearby Caribou Gold Mines and within days several hundred men, some from as far away as Ontario, had answered the call for "single men with guts"!



After six gruelling days of rescue efforts there was still no sign of survivors. Just when officials were about to abandoned the rescue work, a government diamond drill reached the 141-foot level and contact was made with the entombed men. Tragically, Herman Magill died hours later of pneumonia.



Armed with the news that Robertson and Scadding were still alive, the rescuers redoubled their efforts. The only hope of rescuing the two survivors lay in re-opening the Reynolds shaft, which had earlier been condemned by mine officials as too dangerous.

THE RESCUE SUCCEEDS

Finally, after ten days of determined effort and incessant toil, the rescuers reached the trapped men. On April 23, 1936, at 12:45 a.m., Dr. Robertson was greeted with the wild cheers of triumphant miners as he emerged from the rescue tunnel. Alf Scadding followed shortly afterwards and, later, the body of Herman Magill was brought out.



DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The difficult task of caring for the army of men engaged in the rescue efforts fell largely to the citizens of Moose River Gold Mines. While the men of the village struggled to free their three companions, the women worked tirelessly to feed and house the rescuers. Without this monumental community effort, the rescue attempt might never have succeeded.

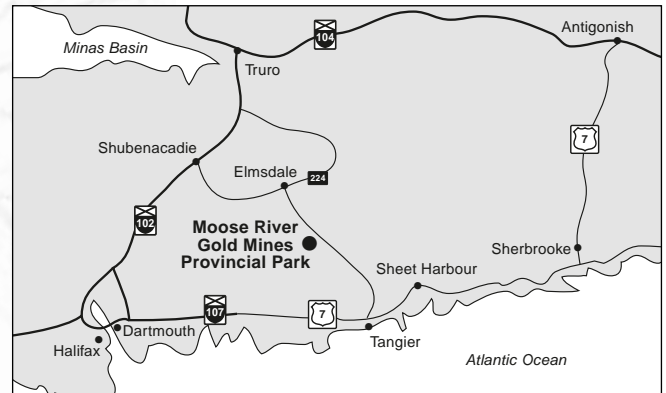
A RADIO BROADCASTING FIRST

The daring rescue efforts, widely chronicled by the news media, captivated the hearts of millions across North America and Europe. The broadcasts of J. Frank Willis of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Company (later the CBC) were carried by over 700 radio stations in Canada, the United

States and England, establishing a record for consecutive live broadcasts from one location. These broadcasts represented North America's first major "media event" and are claimed to have changed the course of radio in Canada.

HOW TO GET TO THE PARK

Moose River Gold Mines Provincial Park is located just off the Mooseland Road in the community of Moose River Gold Mines, Halifax County. From Highway 7, on the Eastern Shore, the Mooseland Road may be accessed 3 miles (5 km) east of Tangier. From Highway 224 in the Musquodoboit Valley, the Mooseland Road begins near Elmsdale, 5 miles (8 km) east of Middle Musquodoboit.

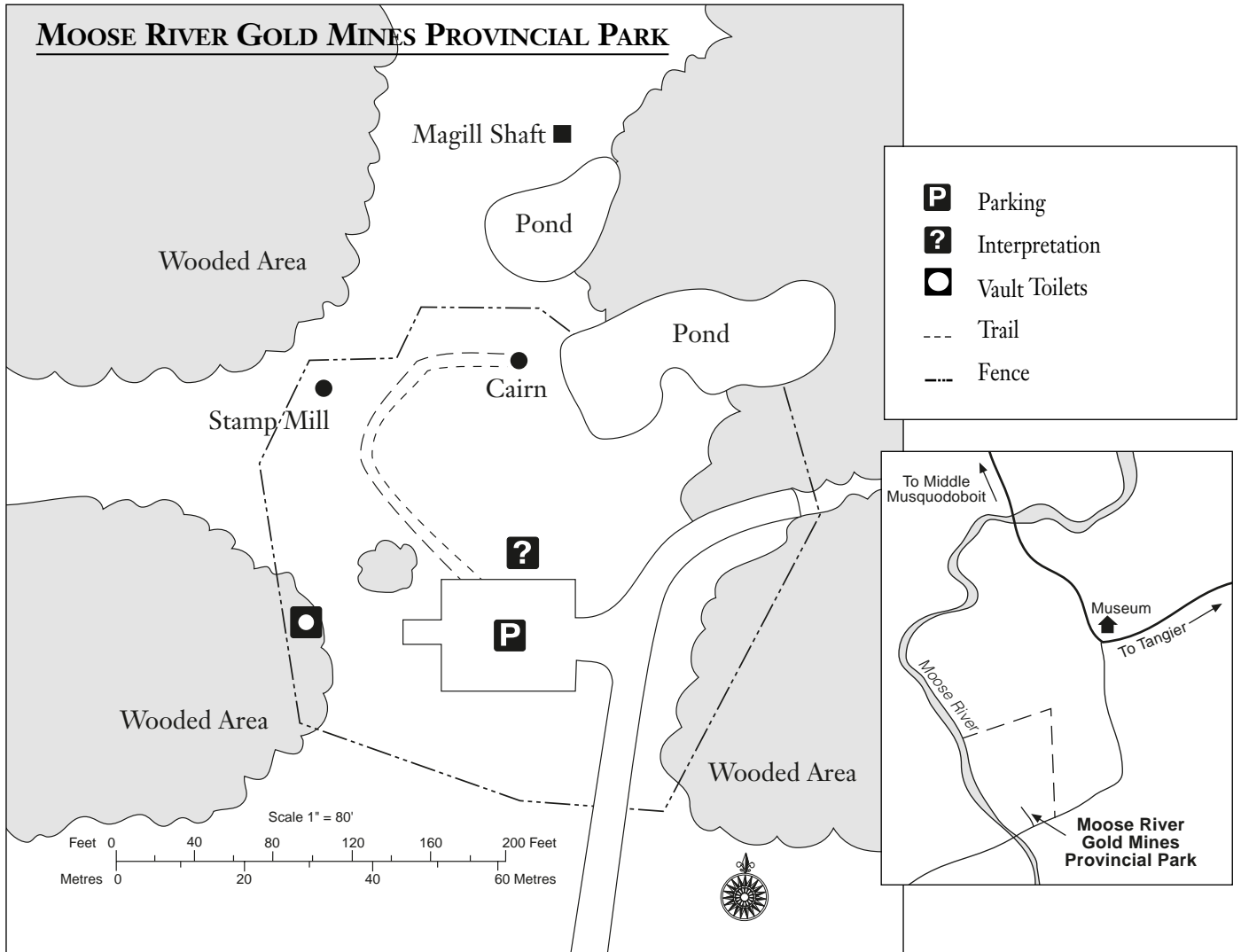


MOOSE RIVER GOLD MINES MUSEUM

Complementing the park, is a museum operated jointly by the community of Moose River Gold Mines and the Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association. Here visitors may see an interesting collection of gold mining artifacts, get a first hand account of the Moose River Mine disaster or learn of the area's rich gold mining history. The museum is open during summer months.

THREE ARE TRAPPED IN THE MINE
CLIMAX NEARS IN RACE WITH DEATH
MEN NEAR RESCUE
MAGILL HAS PERISHED
RESCUE WORK RACES MADLY TO FINISH
THANK GOD THEY LIVE
ZERO HOURS TO GO
REACHING
MEN FIGHT MOUNTING ODDS
MEN ARE RESCUED; MINERS SING HYMN

MOOSE RIVER GOLD MINES PROVINCIAL PARK



A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PARK VISITORS

Nova Scotia's provincial parks are provided for your benefit and enjoyment. Help protect Moose River Gold Mines Provincial Park by leaving it as you found it so that future visitors may enjoy the park as you have.

Flowers, trees, shrubs, and even rocks are part of this park's natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove these resources.

Visitors are advised to remain within the security fencing at all times. Several open mine shafts are located in the unfenced area.

For additional information:

Parks and Recreation Division
Department of Natural Resources
R.R. 1, Belmont
Colchester County, Nova Scotia
B0M 1C0
(902) 662-3030
<http://parks.gov.ns.ca>

or
District Office
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Box 112, Middle Musquodoboit
Halifax County, Nova Scotia
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(902) 384-2290

