YUKON MINERAL EXPLORATION PROGRAM (YMEP 23-024)
FINAL REPORT

TARGET EVALUATION PROGRAM AT VERONICA BENCH, DAWSON MINING DISTRICT, YUKON

NTS 115O10 g

Latitude 63° 39’ 56” N Longitude 138° 37‘15” W

Dawson Mining District

Claim Names: Rob 1-28

Grant Numbers: P38821-27, P38831-34, P38883,

Prepared By:

Gimlex Enterprises Ltd.

P.O. Box 660

Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0

Dr. James S. Christie

January 29, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Veronica Bench is a placer gold occurrence on a high-level terrace/ bench along lower Dominion Creek. The gold occurs in cobble and boulder gravel deposits that are erosional remnants of a larger regional feature that could be as old as the White Channel gravels in the Dawson City area. These old bench gravels have undergone long-term weathering and erosion, and over time have released placer gold onto the slopes and small drainages nearby. Veronica bench is accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicles at most times but high water at the ford on Dominion Creek can be and was a problem in May and June of 2023.

The sites were found by prospecting and staked in 1992 and since then trenching, mapping, metal detecting, and auger drilling have been done to evaluate gold content. Gold was found to be widespread in the gravels at Veronica, but values were deemed to be sub-economic for placer mining when gold prices were much lower. In recent years with higher prices there is renewed interest in re-evaluation of Veronica and a similar gravel occurrence (Eagle Bench) just upstream. Previous work has shown that most of the gold is fine grained, but some coarse gold and small nuggets have been found in both deposits.

YMEP 23-024 was planned to take bulk samples from large test pits that had been left open after a metal detecting project (YMEP 22-003) the previous year. This plan did not work out because all the 2022 pits had not drained well and were found to have pooled water and were not suitable for bulk sampling. New sample pits had to be excavated near the old ones and four sites required multiple new excavations on account of permafrost preventing access to bedrock and the basal gravel which was intended to be part of the bulk samples, and this was not successful at all sites.

There were several other problems resulting from delays in gaining access on account of high water in Dominion Creek blocking the ford crossing Dominion, the only route to the site. Jim and Dagmar Christie drove from Dawson to check the ford on May 22, June 25, and June 30 when the water finally was low enough to cross Dominion Creek, but the approaches on each side remained blocked by several feet of mud and debris deposited during spring flooding. The planned start time was mid June but by July the people we needed to help were no longer available and we had to find other capable people immediately. We were fortunate to be offered Gary Williams (Reno Contracting), on short term loan from Banyan Gold near Mayo. Gary is a well-known mechanic /equipment operator /placer miner previously at Seattle Creek and was a perfect fit for our project. We still needed some short-term physical help to get the work done and that was more difficult to find.

Gary's first job was to get the PC 400 excavator that was still in winter storage at Dominion camp ready for work. We had a new water pump to be installed (old one had a coolant leak), but in the process a serious engine oil leak was found, and repair parts were not available from the Komatsu dealer. We made a trip to Indian River to search for the needed oil seals in the parts inventory there but did not find the right parts. Another excavator would be needed to get the YMEP project started. There was a running PC 60 with hydraulic thumb and dozer blade at Indian River that we decided to use. The PC 60 has a smaller bucket and can only dig to a depth of 12 feet, and this was acceptable because the intended targets were all shallow. Our haul truck and equipment trailer were in

Dawson and Gary was licensed to drive it, so we had to go to Dawson, then back to Indian River with trailer and then to Dominion hauling the PC 60. Finally on July 6 we had the PC 60 at the Dominion ford with Gary operating and the approaches were cleared of muck and debris, graded and ready for YMEP 23-024 to get started.

We were unable to find suitable short-term help locally but were offered 3 diamond drill helpers from Kluane Drilling in Whitehorse for a period of 5 days. They arrived on July 7 and on July 8 set up the high-pressure water pump and waterline to the longtom, and then filled 3 large aluminum tubs (total volume equivalent to 1 cubic yard) with selected gravel from the first bulk sample trench. They loaded the tubs onto the 4x4 flat deck crane truck and drove to the processing site where the gravel was shoveled by hand and processed through the longtom. Large rocks were cleaned by hand in the longtom dump box and discarded and a clean-up was done after all 3 tubs were empty. Four more bulk samples were obtained and processed by July 11 when the Kluane helpers had to leave for Whitehorse. We cleaned up around the worksites and tapered the pit walls for wildlife protection and moved the PC 60 back to safety at Dominion camp before Gary had to leave on July 12. Jim and Dagmar continued to work on sample processing and gold recovery until leaving for Whitehorse on July 14. We missed the chance to have Jeff Bond visit during his first trip to Dawson area because of all the delays in getting started. We did meet with Jeff on August 12 and moved the PC 60 back to dig fresh pits for his examination.

When Jeff Bond arrived, we excavated a new pit beside Bulk Sample #2 (0.432 g gold) and Jeff was a bit perplexed at not finding any sedimentary structures in the basal clay altered cobble and boulder gravels at Veronica. He was thinking the intense in-situ weathering and clay development near surface might have destroyed the original textures. He seemed to be impressed with the significant gold found in the bulk samples but was not in agreement with my idea that we were looking at basal glacial till. He suggested that we dig a deeper pit with the hope of finding less disturbed material below the very intensely weathered surficial layer. We tried to dig a deeper pit about 150 feet upslope from Bulk Sample #2 but did not reach bedrock. I told him about an old 1992 trench further upslope that was 20 feet deep in thawed gravel and had not reached bedrock. Several samples from the old trench contained sub-economic fine-grained gold. This was the only trench in the deeper ground that was not frozen (permafrost). The trench had been reclaimed long ago (PHOTO # 8-9) ,and I did not remember the exact location. There was no GPS in 1992, but I was confident I could find it using old maps. Jeff suggested digging a deeper pit in that area where the in-situ weathering might be less intense and taking another bulk sample. We were able to do this work during August 27 to September 5 after the PC400 was fixed. It was more of a DIY situation with the help of our son Sheamus (red seal HD mechanic). The high-pressure pump and waterline had been removed for use at another Kluane drill job. We ended up transporting the bulk sample to Indian River camp for processing later in September and did have another interesting gold result (O.438 grams

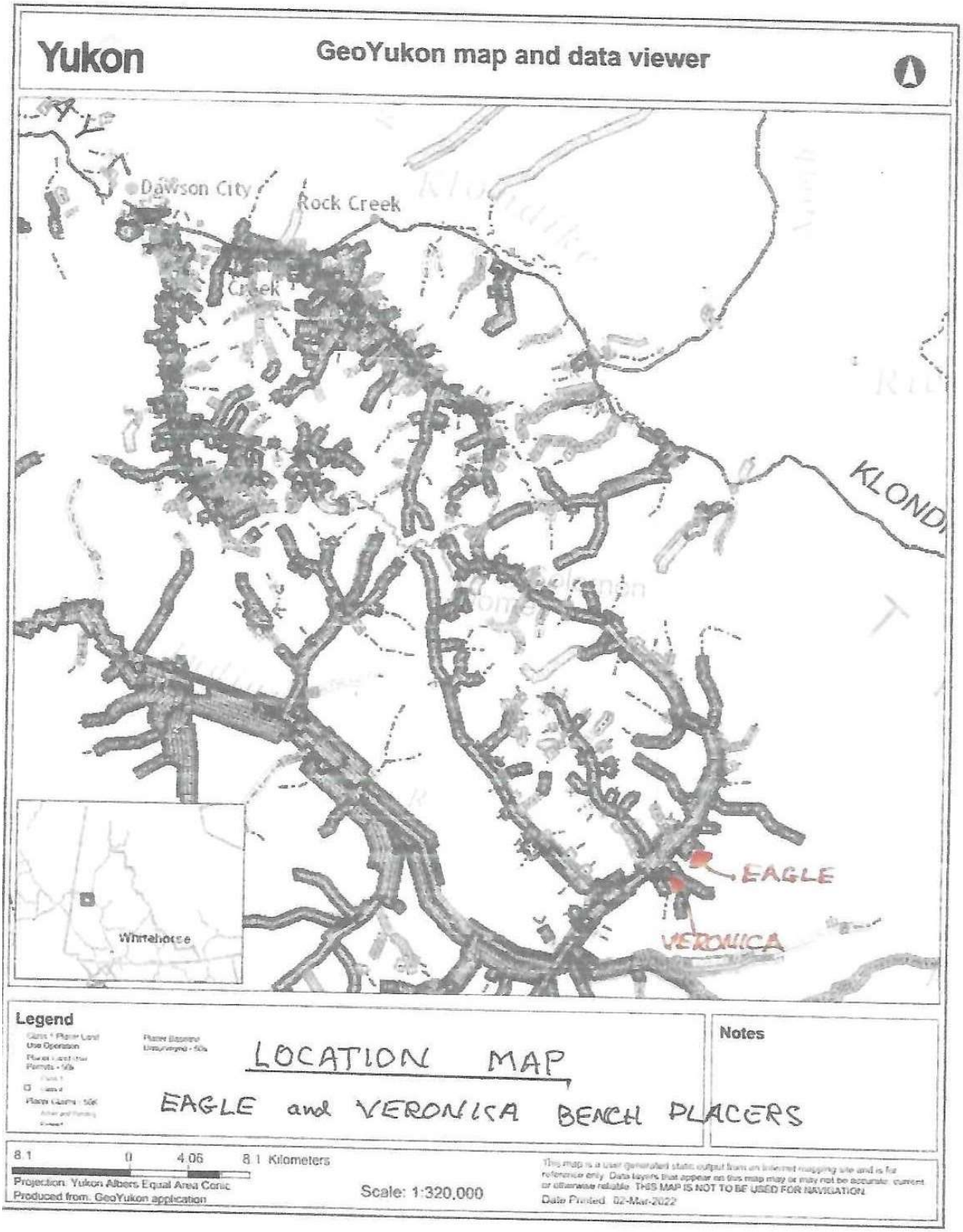
After taking the deeper bulk sample and with the PC 400 still on-site we decided to back-fill and reclaim all the YMEP 2022 and 2023 test pits and disturbed areas. From experience we had learned that pits left open would pool water and not likely be useful for future sampling. We were aware of being over budget after Jeff Bond's visit but realized that there would be no better time to complete the reclamation work than while we were already there with the necessary time and equipment to

do the work. The reclaimed areas are likely to remain thawed for years and can be re-opened if more work is planned.

LOCATION – ACCESS – PHYSIOGRAPHY

Veronica Bench Placer is located on the Rob claims on a height of land (terrace/bench) between Rob Roy and Veronica Creeks. Veronica is the name that appears on some older YCGC Maps, but the creek is also called Gyppo Creek, Lee Pup, and Unnamed LL Tributary of Dominion Creek in more recent documents. The area is accessed by the Hunker Creek-Dominion or Sulphur Creek - Dominion roads, either route about 1- hour drive from Dawson City and connecting with secondary roads and equipment trails leading to the claims. There is a ford crossing Dominion Creek accessible on an old road crossing claims owned by Dominion Gold. There are numerous equipment trails, drill lines and survey lines providing access to areas of interest. Slopes are mostly gentle and steepen slightly approaching Rob Roy Creek. Vegetation is light with open areas of grass, moss and brush, groves of tall birch and willow in dryer areas, and patchy spruce and willow in mossy damp areas often underlain by permafrost at shallow depth.

Figure 1: Location map



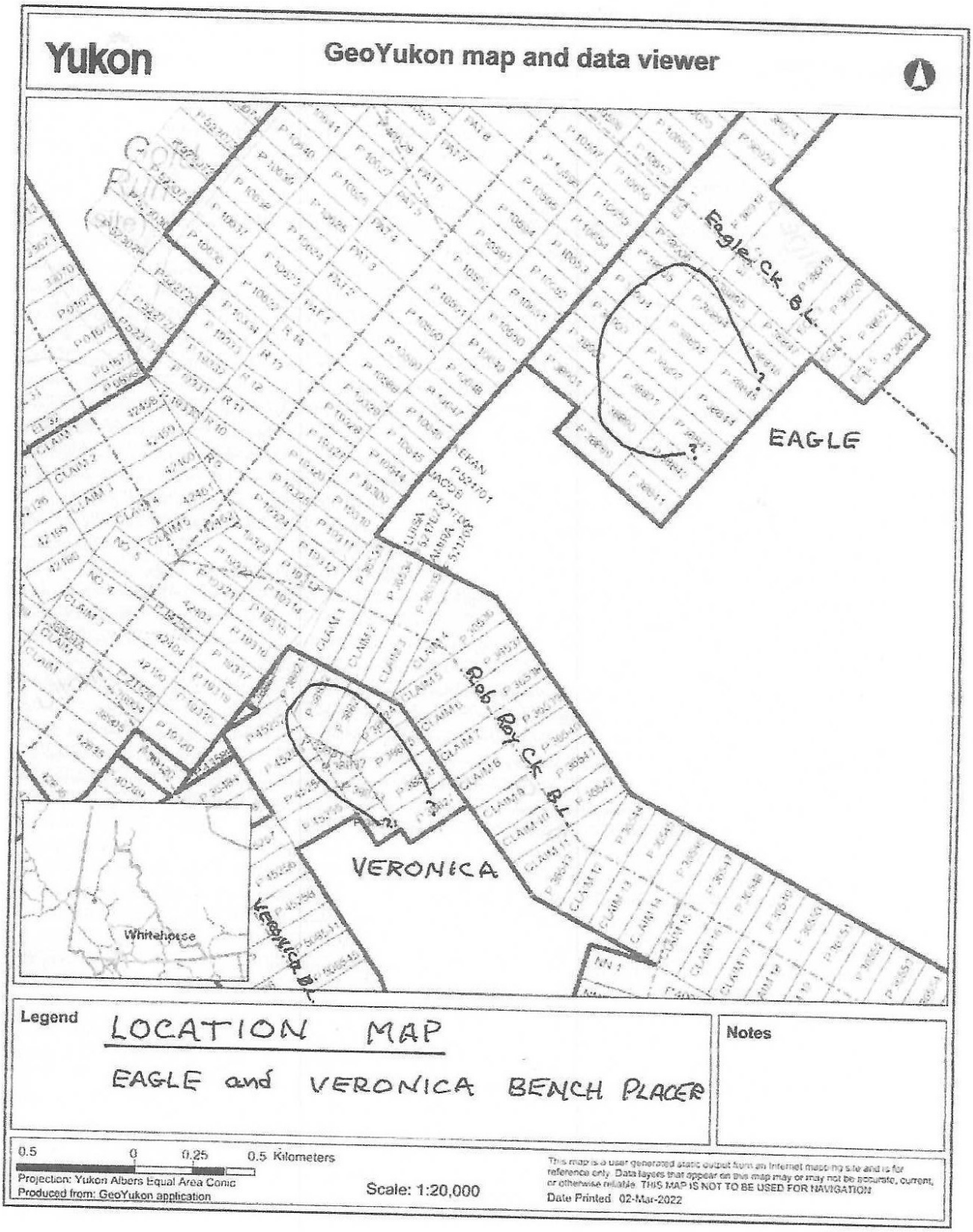
CLAIM LIST

There are 23 claims on Veronica Bench as listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Rob Claims on Veronica Bench

Grant #	Claim name	Claim #	Owner	Expiry
P 45252	Rob	18	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/15/2024
P 45253	Rob	19	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/15/2024
P 45254	Rob	20	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/15/2024
P 45255	Rob	21	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/15/2024
P 45256	Rob	23	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/15/2024
P 45257	Rob	22	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/16/2024
P 45258	Rob	24	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/16/2024
P 508544	Rob	25	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/14/2024
P 508545	Rob	26	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/14/2024
P 508546	Rob	27	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/14/2024
P 508547	Rob	28	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	10/14/2024
P 38821	Rob	1	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38822	Rob	2	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38823	Rob	3	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38824	Rob	4	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38825	Rob	5	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38826	Rob	6	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38827	Rob	7	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38831	Rob	11	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38832	Rob	12	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38833	Rob	13	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38834	Rob	14	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024
P 38883	Rob	17	Gimlex Enterprises Ltd. - 100%	11/5/2024

Figure 2: Location map of Veronica and Eagle Benches



GEOLOGY

It is not surprising that there have been no focused surficial geology studies near Veronica Bench since there are no natural exposures of gravels or bedrock on the bench. Veronica Creek has many bedrock exposures related to recent placer mining activities and some old pits that may relate to previous quartz exploration. Strong gold in soil Geochem anomalies and traces of visible gold have been found in the exposures near Veronica in mafic schists and gneissic rocks associated with chlorite and carbonate alteration and narrow quartz veinlets. Regional geological mapping has projected convergence of 3 thrust faults in the immediate area. Strongly deformed schists with recumbent drag folds exposed in a cut NE of Veronica Creek are probably related to the faults. Regional mapping has indicated that a variety of rock formations ranging in age from Late Permian to Mississippian occur in the thrust fault slices.

Many auger drill holes have been completed over the years and were usually drilled 2-4 feet into bedrock and rock chips were routinely collected, cleaned, and examined by the geologist and described in drill logs. In thawed gravel rounded pebbles are recovered but in permafrost only rock chips are recovered but sometimes rounded chips are seen. Dark to light green mafic schists, grey to black graphitic schists and light grey felsic schists are common and white segregation quartz(metamorphic) can be abundant. Pale green bleached and chloritized rocks with carbonate veining were seen in a few holes and in trenches closer to Veronica Creek. Minor visible gold in quartz veins was found at 2 localities.

The placer claims on Veronica Creek were staked in 1992 and mined by Gyppo Mining (formerly Gyppo Logging from Queen Charlotte City, B.C.). Mining continued for about 5 years advancing upstream until the grade gradually fell-off as gold prices were declining and mining was no longer profitable. The author had opportunities to see some of the coarse gold produced by Gyppo and it was quite spectacular bright gold of high purity, but most of the gold mined was also bright but fine grained. The nuggets were under 1 ounce, and some were rounded and smooth while others were rough and dendritic and even crystalline. There was a minor component of dendritic “black gold “nuggets totally encased in black manganese oxide. There may have been multiple sources of gold given the variation in texture of nuggets and a local bedrock source may be possible but not yet identified.

At Veronica Bench stream rounded cobbles and boulders were found along the base of slope while collecting soil sample in a YMIP Regional Quartz exploration project and staking of the placer bench claims followed. Early excavator trenching in 1992 continued to unearth more alluvial boulders, cobbles and highly weathered clay altered gravely material as the work focused on finding the extent of the gravel deposit by exposing the contact with bedrock. The contact areas were always at shallow depth and usually thawed, but the thicker parts of the gravel uphill of the contact were mostly frozen (permafrost) and impossible to excavate with a standard digging bucket. Simultaneously, a second similar occurrence was discovered upstream between Eagle and Rob Roy Creeks (Eagle Bench), and the work shifted there to determine the size of that deposit.

The common occurrence of stream rounded hard quartz, silicified or other weathering resistant rocks at Veronica and Eagle implied that both bench deposits were alluvial deposits of ancestral

Dominion Creek. Situated high above present day Dominion Creek, the deposits are obviously old and could be the same age as the White Channel deposits in the Dawson area (2.6-3.3 Ma). YMEP trenching projects in 2022 and 2023 generated many new quality exposures and the first opportunity to have a close look at selected areas within the deposits. After a few trenches it became clear that there was universal intense in-situ weathering in the form of clay alteration and oxidation extending to depth, and the top few feet were characterized by very hard dense clay alteration of the matrix. Matrix clay development became less intense with depth but continued all the way to bedrock in the first 5 bulk sample pits that were about 10-12 feet deep. Oxidation appeared to be consistent throughout the matrix producing pale rusty brown colors. There were also abundant angular rocks of all sizes in all of the bulk samples. Notably there was no bedding, pebble orientation or other sedimentary structures in the shallow trenches although it seemed that most of but not all boulders were near bedrock. Boulders would occasionally pop-out leaving perfect casts while excavating and some of these appeared to be matrix supported. In some of the larger more accessible 2022 metal detecting pits large well rounded individual boulders appeared to be pressed up to a meter into the light grey mica schist bedrock. Being pre-occupied with metal detecting at the time we missed the opportunity to study these large stream rounded rocks in bedrock.

The Deep bulk sample pit exposed a higher part of the sequence not seen in in the other bulk sample pits and is described in the BULK SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS section of this report. Generally, there was a14- foot thick section of oxidized material thought to be rocky colluvium that was less oxidized in the bottom few feet. Only the bottom 1- foot of colluvium was included in Tub #1 of the bulk sample and this tub contained about ¾ of the gold recovered and included hundreds of very tiny gold pieces (see photos). There were abundant rounded pebbles and cobbles throughout the upper unit.

Under the colluvium was the basal cobble/boulder unit that was about 6 feet thick and the top 2 feet was included in the bulk sample (Tubs #2&3). The material sampled was very dense oxidized cobble clay material thought to be till, and the clay was strongly bonded to the rocks which were hard to clean in the longtom. Both Tubs contained gold but unlike Tub #1, only had a small amount of ultra-fine gold. There were lots of stream rounded rocks throughout the lower unit. Based on gold content, oxidation differences and lithology there appears to be a disconformity between upper and lower units and there appears to be significant gold concentration related to this feature.

YMEP projects in 2022 and 2023 were focused on metal detecting and bulk sampling and required a lot of mechanical excavation of test pits to reach the intended goals. Observing and recording basic geological features was part of the work but in-depth study of the stratigraphy and genesis of the deposits was never on the front burner, nor was it ignored. After digging and sampling dozens of test pits on Veronica bench there are some observations about the deposit that appear to be at odds with the idea that it is entirely an alluvial deposit. I am aware that my training in surficial geology and stratigraphy was minimal and probably not current but there are some observations and ideas from the work that may be relevant to understanding the origin and history of Veronica Bench. It would require a serious effort and more excavation to determine anything definitive about how Veronica Bench came to be what it is Optimistically, it would not be hard to re-open the Deep Sample pit and enlarge it by grading the walls to a stable slope and permit safe study and sampling,

and with a small sump pump it could remain accessible for a long time. But is it worth the cost, time and effort, and Veronica Bench may be only part of the regional story?

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS, IDEAS, and QUESTIONS

1 The pits were all shallow except for one Deep pit and samples targeted the rocky basal layer and bedrock. No sedimentary structures were observed anywhere in the basal layer.

2 The cobbles and boulders in the basal layer often appeared to be matrix (sandy clay) supported. Is there an alluvial environment where boulders and clay are deposited together in this manner?

3 Some of the stream rounded boulders are deeply lodged in underlying mica schist bedrock and appear to have been pressed into place. Can this happen in an alluvial environment?

4 Pebble orientation and associated gently dipping planar fabric are seen in upper unit at the Deep pit (PHOTO # 11-12) above the basal cobble-boulder layer. This upper unit looks more like colluvium than alluvium or till.

5 In the Deep pit the upper rocky colluvium layer is light to medium brown in color (oxidized) except for the bottom 2-feet just above the basal rocky boulder unit where there are less oxidized light grey patches (Photo #???) in which partly decomposed remnants of grey siliceous mica schist were found. Tub #1 of the Deep bulk sample was taken from this patchy oxidized zone and contained most of the gold recovered (0.302 grams).

6 Tubs #2 and #3 sampled the upper 2-feet of the basal cobble -boulder unit which is believed to be till and appears to be intensely weathered and the sandy clay matrix is rusty brown in color, and strongly bonded to the rocks within the clay. These rocks were very hard to clean in the longtom and were often discarded only partly cleaned.

7 There appears to be a disconformity between the upper and lower unit in the Deep pit based on change of lithology, apparent concentration of placer gold above, and more intense weathering and oxidation below.

COMMENT There are too many could be's and maybe's when it comes to trying to understand the age and genesis of the Veronica Bench gravels and how to use the geology to plan for more exploration. We now have 2-bulk samples with potentially economic grade near an auger drill hole that was also good, but we still question the genesis wondering if we are dealing with alluvial, colluvial or glacial deposits. At this point the next steps would be more detailed sampling stepping out from the 2023 sites and a more academic approach to seek answers to the questions of genesis.

BULK SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

BULK SAMPLE #23-1

GPS location	N63 – 40' – 45.1"	W138 – 34' – 27.6"	(PHOTO # 3)
Dimensions	3x4x8 yards	96 cu yd	
Equipment	Komatsu PC60 excavator with dozer blade and thumb, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane, 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables (PHOTO # 1-2)		
Geology	0-3 ft-dark grey muddy surficial /semi organic layer 3-5 dense hard clay matrix intensely weathered gravel 5-9 cobble gravel with a few boulders and less clay and lots of quartz 9-13 rusty oxidized cobble gravel with sandy clay matrix—not to bedrock		
Sample	bottom 6 feet--- all larger cobbles were rejected by samplers estimated to roughly be equivalent volume of 3-4 20-liter buckets.		
Au recovered	0.030 grams.		

BULK SAMPLE #23-2

GPS location	N63 – 40' – 51.5"	W138 – 34' – 10.3"	(PHOTO # 4)		
Dimensions	3x4x8 yards	96 cu yd	Dimensions	3x4x8 yards	96 cu yd
Equipment	Komatsu PC60 excavator with dozer blade and thumb, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane, 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables				
Geology	0-2.5 feet semi-organic grey sandy clay surficial layer 2.5-8.5 light brown oxidized cobble gravel with a few boulders and sandy clay matrix 8.5-10 bedrock—decomposed light grey muscovite schist.				
Sample	all the gravel plus 6" of bedrock – rejected rock pile approximately equivalent to 7 20-liter buckets.				
Au recovered	0.432 grams.				

BULK SAMPLE #23-3

GPS Location	N63 – 40' – 51.3"	W138 – 34' – 19.6"	
Dimensions	3x3x8 yards	72 cu yd x2 trenches =144 cu yd not to bedrock permafrost at 10'	

Equipment	Komatsu PC60 excavator with dozer blade and thumb, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane, 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables
Geology	0-2.5 feet dark grey mud
	2.5-7.5 boulders in cobble gravel with heavy clay matrix
	7.5-10 same but more oxidized (bright reddish brown below 8'—no bedrock
Sample	bottom 6 feet of trench
Au recovered	0.044 grams.

BULK SAMPLE #23-4

GPS Location	N63 – 40' – 51.6"	W138 – 34' – 11.3"	(PHOTO # 5-6)
Dimensions	pre-existing 2022 excavation piles from test pit 22-6 that panned well.		
Equipment	Komatsu PC60 excavator with dozer blade and thumb, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane, 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables		
Geology	This sample was taken from piles of sandy cobble graved from pit 22-6 that were known to have significant gold from panning results. There was a high percentage of larger rocks rejected by the samplers at this site.		
Au recovered	0.166 grams.		

BULK SAMPLE #23-5

GPS Location	N63 – 40' – 42.8"	W138 – 34' – 29.0"
Dimensions	3x4x8 yards 96 cu yd	
Equipment	Komatsu PC60 excavator with dozer blade and thumb, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane, 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables	
Geology	0-3 feet dark grey muddy surficial layer	
	3-9 clay matrix cobble gravely till? with a few boulders—matrix is variably oxidized in brown and reddish brown very dense heavy clay in top part of unit.	
	9-12 pale grey decomposed muscovite schist	
Sample	5-10 feet	
Au recovered	0.026 grams.	

BULK SAMPLE #23-6

GPS Location N63 – 40' – 49.8" W138 – 34' – 27.3" (PHOTO # 10)

Dimensions 3x4x8 yards 96 cu yd

Equipment Komatsu PC60 excavator with dozer blade and thumb, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane, 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables (PHOTOS # 7-8)

Geology 0-4 feet grey surficial layer—contact with underlying gravely unit is irregular (erosional?)

4-9 brownish oxidized cobble/boulder till with heavy surficial clay in the upper part.

9-11 light grey decomposed muscovite schist

Sample This trench was never sampled because the samplers had to return to Whitehorse for another job commitment and Gary was needed in Mayo. It had pooled water and was not suitable for sampling later in August.

BULK SAMPLE DEEP

GPS Location N63 – 40' – 49.9" W138 – 34' – 13.2"

Dimensions 12x8x14 yards 1344 cu yd

Equipment Komatsu PC400 excavator with 72-inch-wide clean-up bucket, F550 4x4 flat deck truck with crane and 3 – 1/3 cu yd heavy duty aluminum sample tubs with lifting cables

Geology 0-4.5 feet grey semi-organic sandy mud

4.5-19 finer grained gravely colluvium? with a few larger cobbles and obvious pebble orientation with gently down-slope dipping fabric/layering enhanced by the pebble orientation but does not look alluvial --this interval is variably oxidized basis color becoming more reddish downward and then patch grey at the bottom—this was thought to be a transition zone of less intense in-situ weathering.

18-21 patchy grey and brown cobble colluvium? with variably oxidized sandy clay matrix and a few boulders—transitions to more rocky material downward (Till?)—remnants of decomposed grey mica schist were found at the center of one less altered grey patch around 19 feet but below that there was a lot more cobbles, more boulders and very heavy clay matrix.

21-25 large cobble/boulder grey till? transitions to grey schist with muscovite parting surfaces at 25 feet—digs very hard-(frozen??) at bottom (PHOTOS # 13-14).

Sample 18-21 feet –this sample took a long time to process and became more difficult downwards—the top tub contained mostly the patchy altered grey colluvium/till? and was run through the longtom in about 2 hours but the bottom 2 tubs each took very much longer 5+ hours each—they both contained a high percentage of hard-packed dense clay clinging to the cobbles which were very difficult to clean by hand and most were discarded only partially clean. There were also a lot of smaller poorly cleaned cobbles and pebbles that passed through the longtom, and gold must have been lost from the samples. A large pile of poorly cleaned larger rocks that were discarded by hand and even more poorly cleaned smaller rocks probably carried unrecovered gold.. A separate clean-up was done for each tub (PHOTOS # 16-19).

Au recovered Total 0.438 grams – Tub 1(top) – 0.302 grams, Tub 2(middle) – 0.082 grams,

Tub 3 (bottom) 0.54 grams.

COMMENT It seems that there must be a discontinuity between the top tub and the bottom 2 based on lithology change, grade, and in-situ alteration intensity differences, or maybe the older surface already had a lot of clay (till?). It suggests a disconformity characterized by placer gold concentration above an older weathered surface.

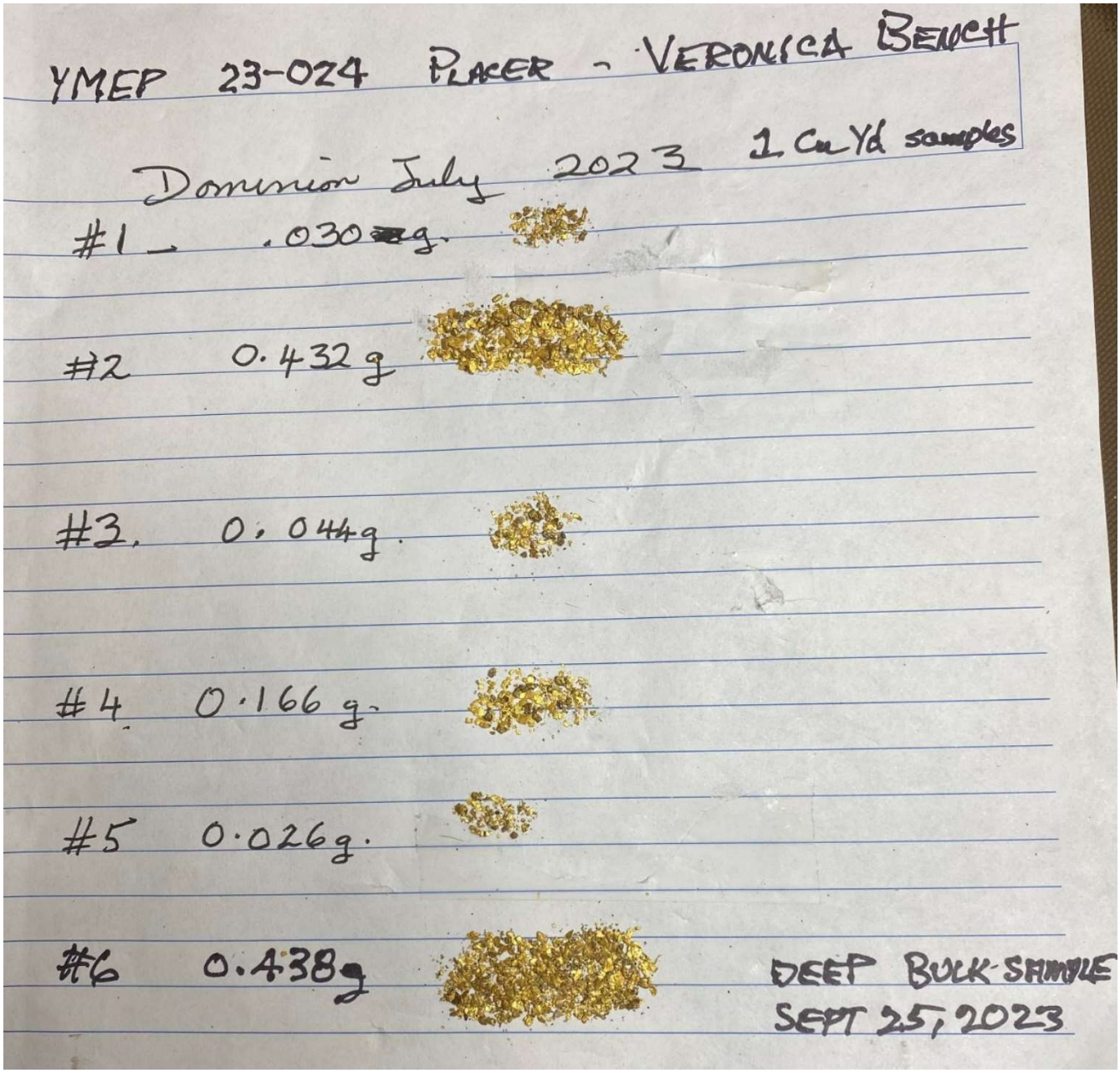
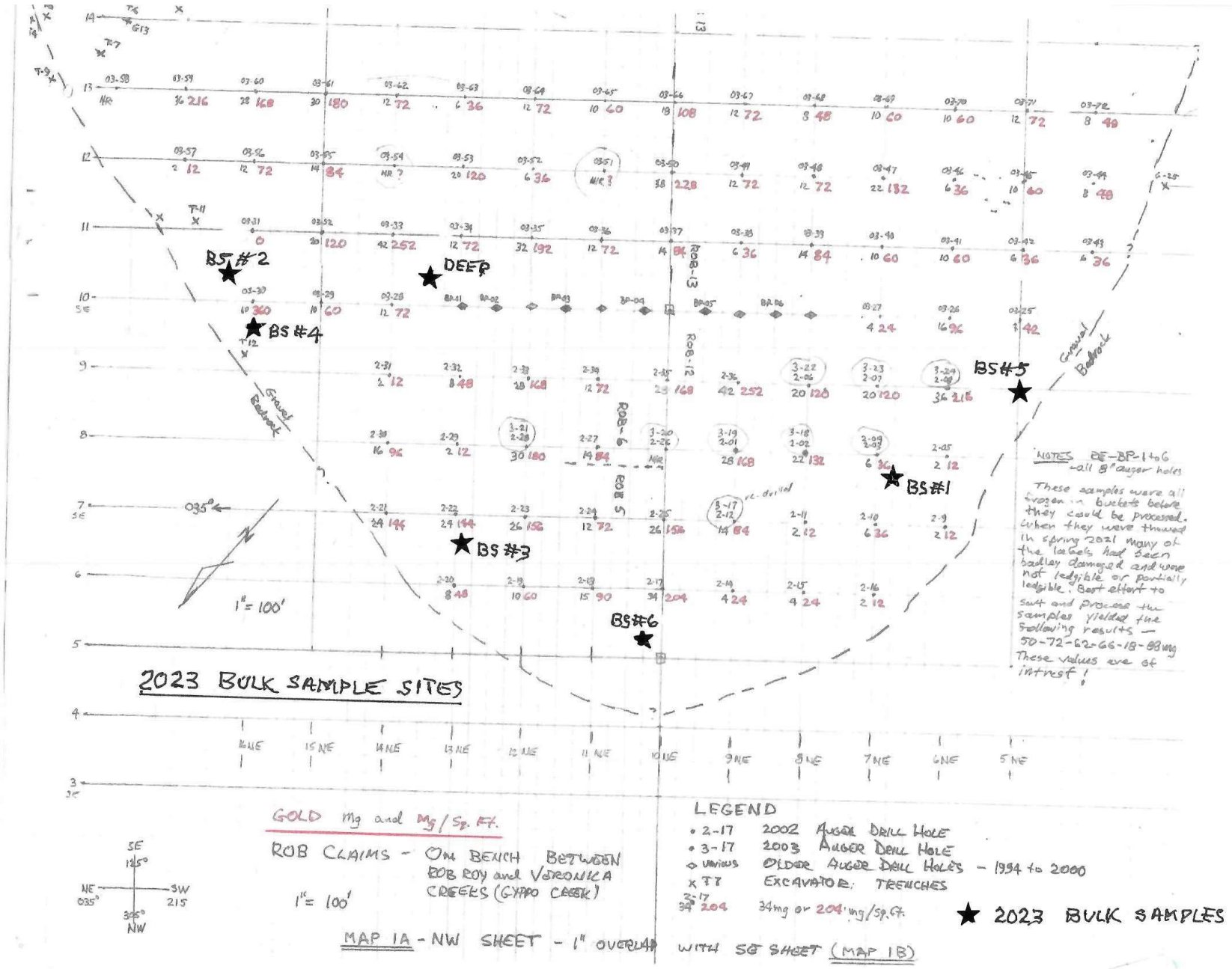


Image: Gold Recovered from Veronica Bench 2023


2023 BULK SAMPLE SITES
BS #2
DEEP
BS #4
BS #5
BS #1
BS #3
BS #6
Gravel
Bedrock
1" = 100'
035°
NOTES BE-BP-1 to 6 - all 8" auger holes
These samples were all frozen in buckets before they could be processed. When they were thawed in spring 2021 many of the labels had been badly damaged and were not legible or partially legible. Best effort to sort and process the samples yielded the following results — 50-72-62-66-18-88 mg These values are of interest!
GOLD mg and mg/Sq. Ft.
ROB CLAIMS - ON BENCH BETWEEN ROB ROY and VERONICA CREEKS (GYPPO CREEK)
1" = 100'
SE 125° NE 035° SW 215 NW 305°
LEGEND
• 2-17 2002 AUGER DRILL HOLE
• 3-17 2003 AUGER DRILL HOLE
◇ various OLDER AUGER DRILL HOLES - 1994 to 2000
x TT EXCAVATOR TRENCHES
2-17 / 34 204 34mg or 204 mg/Sq.Ft.
★ 2023 BULK SAMPLES
MAP 1A - NW SHEET - 1" OVERLAP WITH SE SHEET (MAP 1B)

SAMPLE PROCESSING

One cubic yard bulk samples were collected in 3 heavy duty aluminum tubs (volume 1/3 cu yd each) that were loaded by hand shoveling and any large rocks were rejected by the samplers. The tubs were equipped with lifting cables and all three were easily loaded onto the 4x4 crane truck and moved to the longtom site. The samplers shoveled the sample into the longtom dump box at a rate that produced a good wash and steady flow over the gold recovery equipment in the longtom (PHOTO # 15). When the tubs were empty a longtom clean-up was done and the concentrate was taken to camp for gold recovery.

Longtom concentrates were processed in three steps: Sieving sequentially using 4 – 8 – 14 – 20 mesh screens, followed by Panning +4 - +8 - +14 - + 20 - -20 and recovery by picking of gold in the coarse (+) categories. The fine -20 size was panned as much as possible without losing gold and then, the remaining fine fraction in the -20 size was run on a miller table (PHOTO # 21) to recover all visible gold. There was a large amount of very fine-grained gold in the samples and the Deep sample was outstanding with hundreds of very small colors. It was beyond our ability to recover all the very fine gold without including some very fine impurities (probably -100) that could not be eliminated after drying, so the -20 gold was not entirely clean and there is a small error in weight. After drying the gold was weighed on a digital scale and the total combined weight of each bulk sample was determined (PHOTO # 22-24).

COMMENTS ON RESULTS

The Veronica Project was successful and resulted in two 1-yard bulk samples at 0.438 (Deep) and 0.432 (BS #2) grams per yard about 100-meters apart, and this was the first indication after 30+ years of work and drilling that minable ground may exist. These grades could be feasible mining grades assuming more similar material can be found. Bulk sample #2 is close to 6-inch auger hole #03-30 from which 60 mg of gold was recovered from 3.5-feet of the basal boulder gravel unit. The Deep bulk sample is close to three 6-inch auger holes that averaged 22mg gold from 20-feet of gravel that must have included both the basal boulder unit and the overlying unit (colluvium?). These numbers are interesting but not comparable to the Deep bulk sample grade. Six-inch holes use 51/2 -inch diameter augers and yield a relatively small sample volumes and are not the best indicators of actual grade unless there are many samples to average. They are a useful exploration tool to indicate the occurrence of anomalous gold but in mineable ground values can vary a lot and be as low as zero. When we were mining at Indian River 0 mg values were commonly included in grade estimates of the cuts, and extreme highs values were also used. The 6-inch augers were used at Veronica because the smaller holes are easier to drill in frozen ground and more likely to get through boulders. All the thicker gravel sections are frozen, and the thickest gravel intercept was 32-feet. There are large parts of the bench that returned anomalous gold values and now will need to be sampled in more detail, but auger drilling is not appropriate for incremental sampling, and even less so with larger 8-inch holes that require pulling and cleaning the augers at each sample

interval that leads to contamination problems and the larger holes are usually stopped by hard boulders. Sonic drilling may be the best option for future work.

Other potential mining concerns that will need to be addressed are about the high clay content as it relates to loss of gold on account of being unable to get a good wash and to maintain good recovery in a sluice plant. A well designed trommel wash plant may be capable of good gold recovery in this situation. Settling and re-circulation ponds would have to be designed to accommodate the abundant clay in the tailings. Because of the gentle slopes in the bench area designing and maintaining large settling ponds is not seen as an issue, and there is plenty of room for storage of overburden and coarse tailings. Further, there is always some uncertainty around recovery of very fine-grained gold such as was found in the bulk samples, in all sluice boxes.

All the above considered I can visualize a small-scale low-cost mining operation on the bench utilizing a high tec 80-100 yard per hour trommel and re-circulation system. Pond water would be maintained with a small diesel pump and probably a 6-inch water line from Veronica Creek. Target gold production would be about 1 ounce per hour or better.

CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATIONS

After many years of exploration at Veronica Bench the 2023 bulk sampling has at last shown that mineable placer gold grades exist and there is potential for discovery of more of the same or better. There is now a good reason to undertake some incremental sampling of the thick gravel drill intercepts, which were up to 32-feet thick in previous grid auger drilling. Sonic drilling of 8-inch holes would provide clean samples for visual examination and gold recovery. Lower cost RC Drilling could also be considered because the ground is frozen and in-hole contamination is unlikely.

Before beginning another drilling project, it would be a good idea to re-open the two bulk sample sites in such a way that geological features can be carefully examined, and appropriate detailed sampling done. This would require larger excavations in the thawed ground with stable gently sloping surfaces exposed for examination. A small sump pump would be needed to prevent groundwater accumulation in the work areas. This work should provide useful guidance in planning the drilling program.

I would like to thank Jeff Bond who suggested Bulk Sampling after the metal detecting project in 2022 produced no results.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

I, **James Stanley Christie,** of Dawson City, in Yukon Territory, Canada

Hereby certify:

1. That my address is P.O. Box 660, Dawson City, YT, Y0B 1G0;

2. That I am a graduate of the University of British Columbia:

   a) Ph.D., Geology. 1973,
   b) B.Sc., Honors, Geology, 1965;

3. That I have been practicing my profession in geology, placer mining and mining exploration continuously since 1965 and since 1984 in the Yukon;

4. That I have over 35 years experience with using auger drilling for placer exploration and evaluation of placer deposits;

5. That this proposal is based on my knowledge of the district and the applicability of auger drilling to placer exploration deposits in the area.

Dated this 20th day of January, **2023** at Vancouver, B.C.,

James S. Christie

YMEP 23-024 – Veronica Benche—Placer Module Qualifications

Qualifications of Technicians on YMEP Project 23-024

JIM CHRISTIE PhD (UBC) geologist---Jim has worked in mining and exploration projects since 1965 and became focused on placer projects in the Yukon after 1985. Major projects include mining on Scroggie, Dominion and Indian River, and participation in numerous YMIP and YMEP projects over the years.

DAGMAR CHRISTIE—Dagmar is a retired Pharmacist and has been an active Yukon placer miner since 1985 when mining on Scroggie Creek. She is an expert in placer gold recovery from all sources including sluice boxes, drill samples and the whole range of mechanical devices used to recover placer gold. If there is gold in a sample, she can find and recover it.

SHEAMUS CHRISTIE—Sheamus was raised in a Yukon placer mining environment and started doing mechanical work a Scroggie Creek when he was 15 years old. He went on to become a Yukon red seal Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanic, equipment operator, placer miner and much more. He is very experienced in placer exploration, drilling, and sampling.

GARY WILLIAMS— (Reno Contracting) --Gary is a placer miner well know in the Mayo area where he began mining on Seattle Creek in 2015. He is a very talented mechanic capable of repairing most placer mining machinery and equipment. He is also an excellent excavator operator well versed in placer sampling. He came with a well stocked mechanics service truck.

Kluane Drilling –Josue, Fernando, Eddi--- these men are trained diamond drill helpers from Kluane's Mexico Branch, working in Yukon for the summer season. They were waiting for their next job to start, and we were able to get them to help with sampling for 5 days.

APPENDIIX 1

VERONICA BENCH HISTORY REVIEW for YMEP 23-024 Final Report (revised from previous versions)

INTRODUCTION

Veronica Bench Placer was identified by Jim and Tara Christie after finding numerous stream- worn boulders and cobbles on the hillside below the deposit during a reconnaissance soil sampling traverse near the base of slope. This quartz rich alluvial gravel deposit capping the ridge between Veronica and Rob Roy Creeks was considered a highly prospective placer gold occurrence when staked by Gimlex in 1992. It is located near Granville on Lower Dominion Creek opposite the confluence with Gold Run Creek. Gold Run and Dominion Creeks were both heavily hand-mined during the gold rush at the turn of the century and dredging nearby on Dominion began in 1921 and was continuous for a few years before moving downstream. There was renewed interest in the area in the early 1970's as modern mechanized mining techniques were developed, and placer mining has continued to present.

The Veronica bench gravels appear to be a remnant of a larger alluvial deposit related to an ancient stream that flowed in Dominion Valley when the base level was much higher than present day Dominion Creek. The Eagle Creek bench, another large remnant upstream apparently is part of the same alluvial deposit. These bench deposits could be very old, perhaps several million years, similar in age to the White Channel Gravel in the Dawson area. There has been a lot of erosion of the bench by Dominion Creek and tributaries and there is abundant evidence of deep weathering of alluvium which resulted in a decomposed clay rich surface layer up to 10 feet thick. Downstream to the west, the bench has been destroyed by crosscutting Veronica Creek and is not present below Veronica except further down Dominion near Australia Creek.

It is not surprising that rich placer deposits were mined on the lower part of Veronica Creek, where the bench has been eroded. The placer gold mined from Veronica was primarily of finer grained gold but also included significant coarse gold and nuggets less than 1 ounce in size. Veronica's placer gold at least in part originated from erosion of the bench but there is also evidence of low-grade gold mineralization in the bedrock on Lower Veronica, which is another possible gold source. So far, no significant gold mineralization in bedrock that might account for the placer gold in Veronica has been found despite considerable exploration efforts.

Veronica bench gravels occur on a gently sloping ridge top about 1500' x 1700' in size and is open to the southeast where the gravels appear to interlayer with colluvium deposited from the adjacent slope. Gravel thickness up to 32 feet has been found in drill holes and thickness over 20 feet is common in most of the area except near the edges of the deposit where erosion has removed some

of the deposit. There is more than one million yards of alluvium in the bench deposits including layers of sand, gravels of all sizes, cobbles, and boulders up to 6 feet in diameter, and much of the material is quartz rich or silicified. Permafrost is irregular, and parts of the bench are partially or completely thawed. There is very little organic overburden, but colluvium increases in depth to the southeast and interbedded gravel appears to be thinning towards the steeper hillside. Vegetation is variable including areas and groves of poplar, birch, and spruce.

From a potential future placer mining perspective distance from water for sluicing is a significant difficulty. Pumping water from Veronica or Rob Roy Creek to storage ponds near the mine site are probably the best options to consider. Stripping would be relatively simple because there is not much overburden, and there is plenty of room for waste piles and slopes are gentle. Also, there is a lot of thawed ground on the bench, and an access road from Veronica would be very easy to construct and could double as a water pipeline route. We were able to drive a pickup to the drilling area in 2003 along the existing equipment access trail and the trail was still good in 2023.

EXPLORATION HISTORY

1992-93 Gimlex completed excavator trenching using a long stick Cat 235 excavator with a narrow rock/frost bucket. It was unsafe to enter the narrow trenches on foot for sampling because the ends were very steep, and the unfrozen parts of the walls were prone to caving. Samples could only be taken from materials broken from the bottom and then scooped up and piled beside the trench. There was a lot of dilution and contamination from above. Trenching determined the general size and extent of the deposit, but many did not reach bedrock because of hard boulders, hard frost, and wet caving ground. Trenching also demonstrated occurrence of widespread placer gold in 40 trenches up to 24 feet deep. Most of the gold was fine grained and flat but coarser gold and one nugget were found in boulder gravel units. Gold grades appeared to be mostly sub-economic with gold price around $400 at the time. Later trenching and testing activities were moved north of Rob Roy Creek to the Eagle bench where similar geology and gold values were found. During the trenching phase sampling methods and equipment were primitive as it was a new experience for Gimlex, learning on the fly. Most of the work was done during a very cold fall temperatures which created a constant struggle to keep samples, pumps and water lines from freezing, Improvised, sub-standard sample processing equipment was the only available means of gold recovery. Early results are deemed to be a bit sketchy.

1993 Gimlex leased other claims a short distance downstream on Dominion creek that were potentially a viable placer mining opportunity and purchased an auger drill to test the ground. Work on the bench claims was on hold as Gimlex began to learn about auger drilling and placer sampling from experiencing what worked and what did not and gaining knowledge from others in the industry.

1994 Gimlex started mining in the spring of 1994 on the leased claims downstream on Dominion and had no time to work on the bench claims until October. The auger drill was moved to the Bench and 21 holes were drilled on Lines 10, 13, 16 at Veronica bench.

1995 Gimlex drilled 13 holes in late October on Line 19. The gold values from the 1994-5 holes have not been found but may be available in old records in storage.

2000 Gimlex drilled 14 holes in mid October (assessment work) on Lines 10, 14+50, 17+50—again details are not available. A note in the file indicated good values from 5 samples from 8-inch holes (50-88mg Au) in the centre of Line 10 between 7 SW and 11 SW, in an area where other higher gold values have been found (locations not exactly given). Gold was present in the holes on Line 17+50 but values were low. No reliable results were available for review. A file note indicated that the last 8 holes were 6-inch diameter, and all were frozen in bags and buckets labeled with marker pen. When they were thawed in spring 2001 the markings had faded and were not readable and the samples were discarded.

2002 Gimlex drilled 36—6-inch auger holes on Lines 6, 7, 8, 9 (100' x100' grid drilling) defining the NW contact of the gravels with underlying bedrock. Weighable gold was found in all holes and areas with higher grade were identified. Also, ten holes were found to contain zero or only minor bedrock during sample processing and were deemed to be too shallow and were re-drilled in 2003. Logs and results were available for review. Many of the re-drills were on account of the initial holes hitting un-drillable boulders that stopped the hole above bedrock.

2003 Gimlex drilled 72—6- inch auger holes extending the 100' x 100' grid to the southeast on Lines 11, 12, 13. No strong grade patterns were Identified but in general most of the higher gold grades occur in a 500-foot-wide zone extending NE-SW across the bench deposit. Thirty - 6" auger holes from this zone average 34.3 mg gold which in a 6" drill hole is equivalent to about 200 mg / sq. ft of surface area. This average is strongly affected by 2 holes that contained coarse gold at 280 and 160 mg. It is not certain to what extent these high values should or should not be included in the average? because there is no measure of the abundance of coarse gold in the deposit. If the two coarse gold samples are removed the average of 28 holes drops to 21 mg. Some or all of this zone might be economic at current gold price, but additional drilling would be needed to determine where the gold occurs in the gravel section. Larger 8" auger holes would be good for this purpose and would also help better estimate grade prior to mining, however there would be problems when an 8-inch hole hits a hard boulder. Bulk testing would also be useful and could be done in some of the areas that are naturally thawed.

There is a lower grade zone (200+ feet wide) to the SE which includes a few higher-grade holes, but the rest of the holes were obviously sub-economic at the time. The average gold content of all 29--6" holes (5 ½" augers) in the lower grade zone is 13.5mg. This zone is bounded by Line 13 but may be wider. There is very little reliable drill data above Line 13 to the SE. Coarse gold if present could be important in this lower grade zone as well.

There has been no detailed sampling of the gravel stratigraphy in drill holes, but multiple samples were taken from some trenches in 1992. The better samples were obtained from quartz rich cobble and boulder gravels in the lower 10 feet of the section. The upper gravels contained sandy and silty layers as well as smaller gold colours.

Some coarse gold and small nuggets have been recovered from trenches and drill holes on the bench and they were common in the placer mining cuts on Veronica Creek where the bench has been totally eroded. If there is coarse gold in the bench deposits it could boost the average grade considerably and change the mining economics.

2004-5 Gimlex finished mining and completed reclamation at Dominion site and moved the placer mining operation to Indian River. Little work was done on the Veronica Bench after 2003 in part because most of the equipment was elsewhere.

2022 Gimlex completed a metal detecting project YMEP 22-003 which included some old trench sites and 8-excavated test pits that were metal detected repeatedly at the pits were deepened. The project was a total disappointment because no nuggets were found.

SUMMARY

Rising gold prices in recent years and months has sparked interest in Yukon Placer Gold deposits and reconsideration of some known occurrences that were shelved in years past but might now be of economic interest. Veronica Bench is such an occurrence with little work since 2003 but worth another look at present.

The Veronica Bench Placer was found by prospecting and staked by Gimlex in 1992. It is a thick quartz rich gold bearing alluvial gravel deposit containing more than one million yards of material. It is a remnant of an ancient streambed perched above the current river level and has been eroded and dissected by Dominion Creek and its tributaries. After considerable exploration and testing by trenching and auger drilling the deposit was deemed uneconomic when gold was priced at $ 400 per ounce but now has become more interesting with gold prices higher.

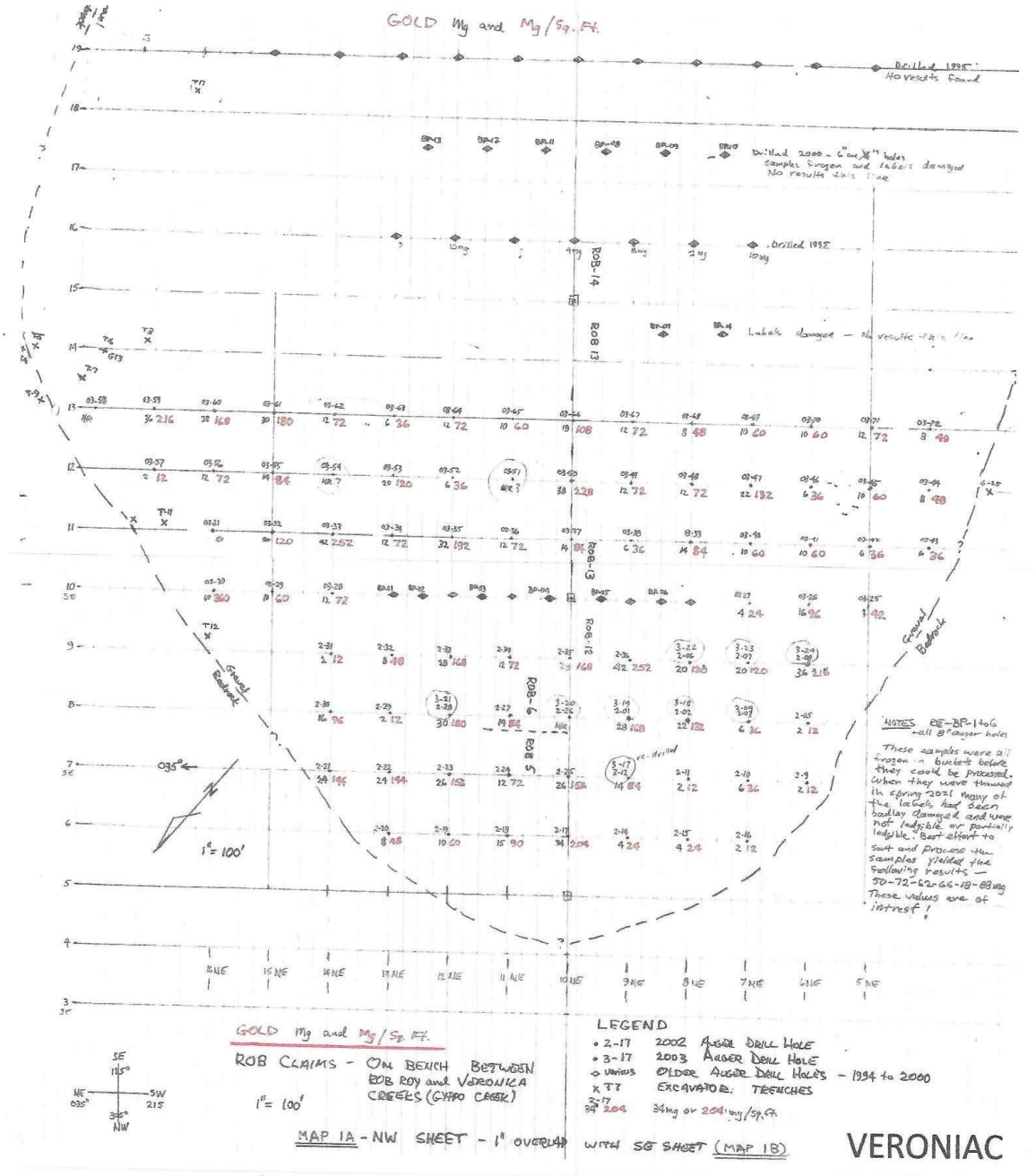
From a placer mining perspective, the bench is very amenable to development with lots of room for infrastructure, stripping and tailings piles etc. on the gentle slopes adjacent to the deposit. Water for sluicing would have to be pumped from Veronica or Rob Roy Creek and stored in ponds near the mine-site designed for re-circulation of water from settling ponds back through the sluice plant.

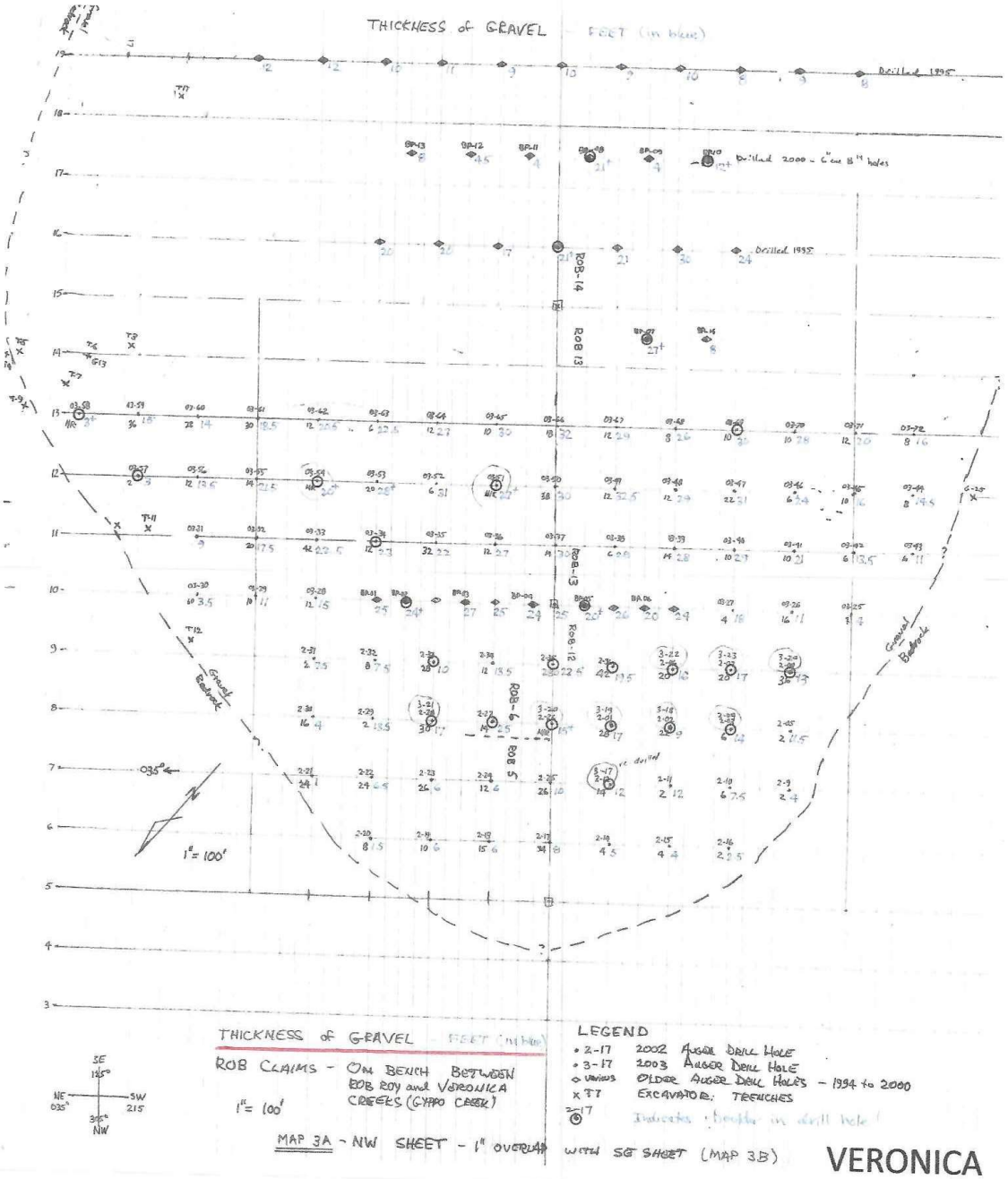
Higher grade areas of the Veronica Bench with average grade around 200 mg per sq. ft (based on 6-inch auger drilling), is probably mineable at present, but the situation would look much better if the grade was higher. There are indications that coarse gold and small nuggets are present and may be under reported in the small 6-inch drill holes. Trenching samples from 1992 suggests that better gold grades occur in coarse quartz rich boulder and cobble gravels in the lower part of the alluvial

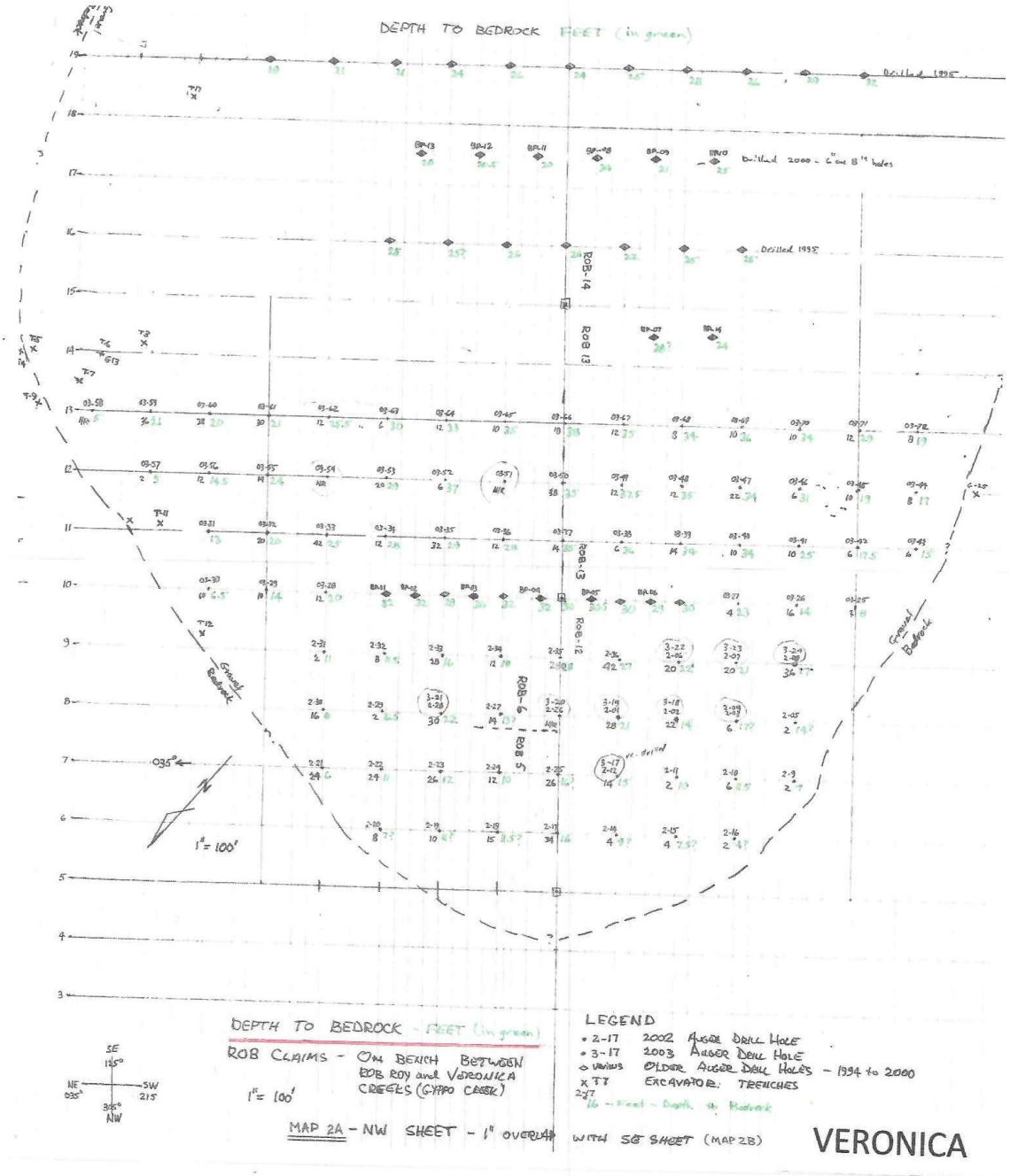
section. Also, there is a need to determine where the gold occurs in the stratigraphic section: all the 6-inch holes were tested with a single sample.

One approach that could improve understanding of the deposit would be drilling 8-inch auger holes with multiple sample intervals to determine where the gold occurs and possibly recover some coarse gold as well. An 8-inch hole yields almost double the sample volume as the 6-inch, but the larger diameter holes are less capable of drilling thru large boulders and a lot of re-drilling of holes would be required to reach bedrock resulting in damage to equipment, augers and bits, and higher costs.

Another idea was bulk testing in some of the areas of natural thaw where it would be possible to get samples quickly. This was done in 2023 with support from YMEP 23-024.


GOLD Mg and Mg/Sq. Ft.
Drilled 1995
No results found
Drilled 2000 - 6" auger holes
Samples frozen and labels damaged
No results this line
Drilled 1995
Labels damaged - no results this line
ROB-14
ROB-13
ROB-12
ROB-11
ROB-10
ROB-9
Ground Bedrock
1" = 100'
NOTES: BE-BP-1 to 6 - all 8" auger holes
These samples were all frozen in buckets before they could be processed. When they were thawed in spring 2021 many of the labels had been badly damaged and were not legible or partially legible. Best effort to sort and process the samples yielded the following results —
50-72-62-66-18-88 Mg
These values are of interest!
GOLD Mg and Mg/Sq. Ft.
ROB CLAIMS - ON BENCH BETWEEN ROB ROY and VERONICA CREEKS (CYPRO CREEK)
1" = 100'
LEGEND
• 2-17 2002 AUGER DRILL HOLE
• 3-17 2003 AUGER DRILL HOLE
◇ various OLDER AUGER DRILL HOLES - 1994 to 2000
X T7 EXCAVATOR TRENCHES
2-17 34 204 34 Mg or 204 mg/Sq. Ft.
MAP 1A - NW SHEET - 1" OVERLAP WITH SE SHEET (MAP 1B)
VERONIAC


THICKNESS of GRAVEL - FEET (in blue)
Drilled 1995
Drilled 2000 - 6" dia 8 ft holes
Drilled 1995
ROB-14
ROB 13
ROB-13
ROB-12
ROB-11
ROB 9
Gravel Bedrock
Gravel Bedrock
035°
1" = 100'
THICKNESS of GRAVEL - FEET (in blue)
ROB CLAIMS - ON BENCH BETWEEN ROB ROY and VERONICA CREEKS (CYPRO CREEK)
1" = 100'
MAP 3A - NW SHEET - 1" OVERLAP WITH SE SHEET (MAP 3B)
LEGEND
• 2-17 2002 AUGER DRILL HOLE
• 3-17 2003 AUGER DRILL HOLE
◇ various OLDER AUGER DRILL HOLES - 1994 to 2000
x T7 EXCAVATOR TRENCHES
17 Indicates depth in drill hole
SE 145°
NE 035°
SW 215°
NW 325°
VERONICA


DEPTH TO BEDROCK FEET (in green)
Drilled 1995
Drilled 2000 - 6" and 8" holes
Drilled 1995
ROB-14
ROB-13
ROB-12
ROB-6
ROB-5
Gravel
Bedrock
035°
1" = 100'
DEPTH TO BEDROCK - FEET (in green)
ROB CLAIMS - ON BENCH BETWEEN ROB ROY and VERONICA CREEKS (GYPPO CREEK)
1" = 100'
SE 135°
NE 035°
SW 215°
NW 315°
LEGEND
• 2-17 2002 AUGER DRILL HOLE
• 3-17 2003 AUGER DRILL HOLE
◇ various OLDER AUGER DRILL HOLES - 1994 to 2000
x TT EXCAVATOR TRENCHES
2-17
16 - Feet - Depth to Bedrock
MAP 2A - NW SHEET - 1" OVERLAP WITH SE SHEET (MAP 2B)
VERONICA

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOS # 1-24

PHOTO #1 Gary Williams and helpers loading Bulk Sample tubs

PHOTO #2 Loading Bulk Sample tubs on crane truck

PHOTO #3 Gary measuring depth of Bulk Sample #1

PHOTO #4 Bulk Sample #2 pit

PHOTO #5 Bulk Sample #4 piles beside flooded 2022 metal detecting pit

PHOTO #6 Cobbles and boulders rejected from Bulk Sample #4

PHOTO #7 PC 400 excavating Deep pit

PHOTO #8 Excavating Deep pit upper unit (Colluvium?)
Backfilled old 1992 trench top left

PHOTO #9 Backfilled 1992 trench in upper unit (Colluvium?) with gently dipping pebble orientation and planar fabric

PHPTO #10 Completed Deep pit with groundwater ponding and slump from walls

PHOTO #11 East wall Deep pit upper unit with pebble orientation and fabric

PHOTO #12 West wall Deep pit upper unit with pebble orientation and fabric

PHOTO #13 Deep pit large boulders from basal unit

PHOTO #14 Deep pit excavated pile with boulders and cobbles from basal unit

PHOTO #15 Longtom used in 2023 Bulk Sampling Top right is Deep bulk sample tub-#2

PHOTO #16 Deep bulk sample tub #3 before processing at Indian River, on right is partly. processed tub #2 at longtom site with bonded clay on cobbles and pebbles

PHOTO #17 Deep bulk sample tub #2 at longtom partly processed.

PHOTO #18 Deep bulk sample tub #3 at longtom partly processed.

PHOTO #19 Rocks from Deep bulk sample tub #2 clogging longtom discharge chutes

PHOTO #20 Sieved coarse fractions of longtom concentrate from bulk sample tub #1

PHOTO #21 Miller table in operation and gold recovery equipment

PHOTO #22 Fine gold separating at top of miller table Deep bulk sample tub #1

PHOTO #23 Fine gold separating on miller table Deep bulk sample tub #1

PHOTO #24 fresh portion of sample just placed in center of miller table – clusters of gold particles separated from previous portions of sample on both sides

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PHOTO #2 Loading Bulk Sample tubs on crane truck

PHOTO #3 Gary measuring depth of Bulk Sample #1

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PHOTO #14 Deep pit excavated pile with boulders and cobbles from basal unit

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