

OSOYOOS' DIVIDEND MINE

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PATRICK BURNS, a self-made man who built one of the world's largest meat packing empires before envolving himself in other interests such as mining. A Calgarian from Alberta, Burns married a daughter of Thomas Ellis, one of the great cattlemen of the Okanagan Valley. His P. Burns & Co. provided many of the mining towns in British Columbia with fresh meat and even bull hides for the transportation of ores by horse from the mines to the smelters. Burns was honoured as one of the big four western cattle kings that started the Calgary Stampede. It was his Northern Syndicate Company of Calgary that formed the Osoyoos Mines Limited in 1933. William John 'Blake' Wilson, President of Coalmont Colliers Limited, named the coal town of Blakeburn after himself and Burns.

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A feature of Osoyoos that attracts a lot of interest is the Lakeview-Dividend Mine site at the foot of Kruger Mountain. Gold was originally discovered here by George Nadin in 1898. According to another report the ore was first located by Jack and George Bowerman of Oroville before 1910. But it was not until 1912 that interest in the property by an American company resulted in mining on a commercial scale. The ore was hauled to Oroville in a 5-ton Studebaker truck and shipped circuitously to the nearest smelter in Greenwood, B.C., by way of the Great Northern and Canadian Pacific Railways.

In 1931 the Northern Syndicate of Calgary bought the mine and formed Osoyoos Mines Limited in 1933. The syndicate of seven prominent businessmen included Richard B. Bennett, former Prime Minister of Canada. Between 1937 and 1940 the Dividend Mine, as it became known was a full-fledged 24 hour-a-day operation with 65 employees, a payroll of \$8,500 a month, under the supervision of Professor Jenkin Owen Howells, a Welsh geologist and assayer—one who tests the metal or ore to determine the ingredients and quality—who arrived in Osoyoos in 1936.

During its peak four years, the Dividend Mine yielded \$50,000 in gold. The first brick of gold the size of a pound of butter weighed almost 29 pounds, at \$30 an ounce. During the mine's heyday, the gold was transported to Haynes Siding between Osoyoos and Oliver by Dawson and Plaskett trucking for shipment by the CPR to the coast and to the smelter in Tacoma, Washington. Two bricks of gold bullion were sent to the Canadian Mint each month.

The mine boasted a twelve-inch rock crusher, a ten-stamp mill (another type of crusher) left over from the Fairview mining camp near Oliver, and two ball mills, also grinding devices for crushing the ore. About 250 tons of ore were being processed daily. A cyanide recovery plant was erected to handle a daily capacity of 200 tons of concentrates, the residue metal after most of the waste rock has been removed. Cyanide was used as a leaching ingredient to extract the gold from the low-grade ore by converting the gold to a water soluble mixture.

The gold-bearing quartz became exhausted and the mine closed

in March 1940. According to one source it is suggested that restrictions caused by the war forced the closure. However, the mine contributed significantly to the local economy during its halcyon years.

Exploration on adjacent sites was carried out in later years by Osoyoosites Perley Simpson and Ken Butler. Although the mountains around Osoyoos have recorded some very high assays, Osoyoos Mines Limited never ventured beyond the Dividend claim. The Lakeview claim lies undeveloped.

The Osoyoos Golf Course and the adjacent subdivision have erased the site of the mine camp. In 2007 and 2008 the mine site was stabilized, reclaimed, and revegetated with native plants. The remaining tunnel infrastructure has been protected as an important bat habitat.

PRICES OF GOLD IN US \$

1833-1919	18.93-19.95	1990	383.51
1920-1929	20.58-21.32	1991	362.11
1930-1939	17.06-34.87	1992	343.82
1940-1949	31.69-34.71	1993	359.77
1950-1959	34.60-35.10	1994	384.00
1960-1969	35.09-41.28	1995	384.17
1970	35.94	1996	387.77
1971	40.80	1997	331.02
1972	58.16	1998	294.24
1973	97.32	1999	278.98
1974	159.26	2000	279.11
1975	161.02	2001	271.04
1976	124.84	2002	309.73
1977	147.71	2003	363.38
1978	193.22	2004	409.72
1979	306.68	2005	444.74
1980	612.56	2006	603.46
1981	460.03	2007	695.39
1982	375.67	2008	871.96
1983	424.35	2009	972.34
1984	360.48	2010	\$1224.53
1985	317.26	2011	\$1568.10
1986	367.66	2012	\$1668.85
1987	446.46	2013	\$1530.88
1988	436.94	2014	\$1264.00
1989	381.44		



RICHARD BEDFORD BENNETT, an ambitious lawyer from the east coast, he moved to Calgary in 1897 and entered into practice with James Lougheed, that city's most successful lawyer. Bennett went on to become Canada's 11th Conservative Prime Minister of Canada. While Prime Minister, Bennett met with American President Franklin D. Roosevelt regarding the raising the price of gold from \$20 to \$35 an ounce. Bennett was a director of the Dividend Mine in Osoyoos.

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