



INTRODUCTION

The Trans Canada Highway (Route 1), the Burgeo Road (Route 480) which connects the town of Burgeo on the south coast of Newfoundland with the Trans Canada Highway, and some privately owned logging roads provide access to portions of the western and northern part of the map area. The greater portion of the map area is easily accessible only by aircraft.

The topography is dominated by the Long Range uplands, a gently rolling surface with an elevation between 300 and 650 meters, which is deeply dissected by rivers and streams. Much of the map area does not support forest cover above an elevation of 300 to 350 meters, except a more or less dense growth of stunted spruce ("blackmore") and is characterized by bogs between barren peaks and ridges. The degree of bedrock exposure is high in the barren uplands, although exposure in areas underlain by granite is restricted. Except in stream exposures, exposure is poor to moderate in the wooded valleys.

All of the map area has been glaciated, with the ice movements dominantly to the northwest.

The map area was previously covered by 1:250 000 reconnaissance mapping (Riley, 1962). In the 1963 field season most of the present map area and the adjacent map sheets to the east, south and north were mapped on a 1:100 000 scale (Van Berkel et al., 1986; Van Berkel and Currie, 1986). During the 1986 field season a large part of the map area was covered on a 1:50 000 scale. In many areas they were studied in more detail. Mapping on a 1:50 000 scale of the adjacent southern (Dashwoods Pond, 12B/11) and southwestern areas (St. Fintin's, 12B/2) was also done in the 1986 field season (see Van Berkel, 1987a) and published as a separate open file report (Van Berkel, 1987b). The adjacent northern area (Harris River, 12B/9) was mapped on a 1:50 000 scale by Currie (1986, 1987). The Carboniferous rocks of the Bay St. George Subbasin are described by Knight (1983) and the reader is referred to this memoir for a detailed description.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The Long Range Fault divides the pre-Carboniferous rocks into two contrasting terranes. The western terrane (Humber Zone of Williams, 1979) consists of a Grenville basement with a late Proterozoic to early Paleozoic sedimentary cover, locally veneered by easterly derived early Paleozoic ophiolitic allochthons. The eastern terrane consists of felsic to mafic volcanics, clastic sediments and ophiolitic rocks, all cut by granitic and granodioritic intrusions ranging in age from Ordovician to Devonian. This eastern terrane is part of Williams' (1979) Dunning Zone. Along the entire length of the Long Range Fault granitic to intermediate gneisses (unit P3) form a continuous strip of Grenville basement(?) across the Main Gut, Dashwoods Pond and St. Fintin's map areas. The gneisses (unit P3) continue southwards into the Grandy's Lake area (11B/13; see Chorton, 1983).

The dominant rock type northwest of the Long Range Fault is anorthosite (Steel Mountain anorthosite, unit P1) which contains minor quartzite (unit P1c) and meta quartzite (unit P2). Carboniferous sedimentary rocks (units C1 to C3; Knight, 1983) unconformably overlie or are in fault contact with the anorthositic rocks (unit P1) and intermediate to granitic gneisses.

Southeast of the Long Range Fault, medium to high-grade metamorphic, generally leucocratic quartzofeldspathic rocks of the Cornacks Lake Complex (unit PC1; Herd and Dunning, 1979) and psammitic, pelitic and quartzitic metasediments (unit PC2) are invaded by syntectonic biotite granite (unit 02). The post-tectonic plutons of biotite leucogranite (unit 04). The metasediments (unit PC2) contain numerous inclusions and strips of serpentinite and metamorphosed ultramafic rocks (unit 01a), and metabasite (unit 01b). One well-exposed diabase body (unit 03) occurs in the map area, and is also intruded by late-tectonic granitoids (unit 04).

UPPER PROTEROZOIC (Grenville) rocks

Anorthosite of the Steel Mountain complex (unit P1) dominates the Grenville rocks. Anorthositic rocks terminate in the adjacent northern Harris River (12B/9) map area (Currie, 1986, 1987). Much of the anorthosite has massive, partly recrystallized, medium grained (up to 10 cm long) feldspar and even larger layered igneous textures occur rarely. Most anorthositic rocks (unit P1a) have coarser inclusions less than 5 cm in size. Foliation and layers of titaniferous magnetite locally up to a few hundred metres long are common (Baird, 1943, 1954). Brittle faults and fracture zones are widespread. Narrow ductile shear zones have been observed in a few outcrops but are limited in extent. Foliation has been observed in many outcrops along the Burgeo Road (Route 480). Amphibolite (unit P4) are uncommon, generally 0.25 to 3 m thick and trend between northwest and northeast. The Steel Mountain anorthosite is a mass of large, 3 m thick and trend between northwest and northeast. The Steel Mountain anorthosite is a mass of large, 3 m thick and trend between northwest and northeast. The Steel Mountain anorthosite is a mass of large, 3 m thick and trend between northwest and northeast.

Several very coarse grained norite bodies (unit P1c) up to one kilometre across are more mafic facies of the Steel Mountain anorthosite. Poorly foliated quartz diorite-tonalite (unit P2) is present within the eastern margin of the Steel Mountain anorthosite and diorite relations suggest intimate contacts with the anorthositic rocks (unit P1).

Intermediate and granitic gneisses (unit P3) containing inclusions and large bodies of amphibolite occur within and between the Long Range Fault zone and the Steel Mountain anorthosite. A low-grade foliation is parallel to the trace of the Long Range Fault. Locally, spectacular plagioclase schists are produced in shear zones. The intermediate and granitic gneisses (unit P3) are identical to the composite gneiss complex in the Harris River map area (12B/9; see Currie, 1986, 1987), and are assumed to be Grenville on the basis of composition, structural style and high grade mineral textures. The age of the low-grade metamorphic overprint is probably late Proterozoic or early Paleozoic.

Late Proterozoic to Cambrian rocks

Across the Long Range Fault rock types change dramatically. The oldest rocks east of the Long Range Fault form two north-south trending belts with generally leucocratic quartzofeldspathic rocks (unit PC1) of unknown origin and one with metasedimentary rocks (unit PC2). The belts are separated by late-tectonic granite and granodiorite (unit 04).

Leucocratic quartzofeldspathic rocks of the Cornacks Lake Complex (unit PC1; Herd and Dunning, 1979) contain minor amounts of quartzitic to pelitic rocks and amphibolite. Locally gneiss which develops characteristic sheaths, is present. The leucocratic quartzofeldspathic rocks usually occur in large enclave zones within gneissic biotite granite (unit 02), e.g., around Cross Pond. Large bodies of amphibolite equivalents of the ophiolitic rocks (unit 01). The unit (PC1) extends into the adjacent eastern Pusille Pond area (12A/2; Herd and Dunning, 1979) and King George IV (12A/5; Kean, 1983) map areas, and to the south into the Dashwoods Pond (12B/11; Van Berkel, 1987a, 1987b) and the La Poile River map areas (11B/16; Chorton, 1980).

The metasedimentary rocks (unit PC2) can be subdivided into a western portion dominated by psammitic sediments and a smaller eastern portion of quartzitic and semipelite sediments. All were deformed and metamorphosed during medium to high-grade metamorphism. The psammitic sediments (unit PC2a) exhibit a medium grained granular texture with abundant feldspar porphyroblasts (Van Berkel et al., 1986, Fig. 19.5). That commonly obliterate primary sedimentary features. Amphibolite (unit PC2b) inclusions are common and locally large bodies of amphibolite are present but no recognizable ultramafic bodies were observed. Trains of amphibolite inclusions may be highly deformed and disrupted ophiolite dykes.

Lithologically monotonous quartzitic and semipelite metasediments (unit PC2b) form a narrow zone along the eastern edge of the Steel Mountain anorthosite and the Steel Mountain anorthosite. A low-grade foliation is parallel to the trace of the Long Range Fault. Locally, spectacular plagioclase schists are produced in shear zones. The intermediate and granitic gneisses (unit P3) are identical to the composite gneiss complex in the Harris River map area (12B/9; see Currie, 1986, 1987), and are assumed to be Grenville on the basis of composition, structural style and high grade mineral textures. The age of the low-grade metamorphic overprint is probably late Proterozoic or early Paleozoic.

Ordovician rocks

Mafic and ultramafic rocks of possible ophiolite affinities (unit 01) not only occur in the western portion of the map area but also as enclaves in gneissic biotite granite (unit 02). Metabasite (unit 01b) is metamorphosed, variably ophiolitic, but locally moderately strained, coarse grained gneiss generally altered to amphibolite. Well preserved, e.g., south of Portage Lake in the Dashwoods Pond (12B/11) map area original textures are preserved, e.g., south of Portage Lake in the Dashwoods Pond (12B/11) map area (Van Berkel, 1987a, Fig. 41.4) and north of Cross Pond. Dunitic, harzburgite and pyroxenite (unit 01a) are well preserved in a large outcrop at Cross Pond, Dashwoods Pond map area, 12B/11; see Van Berkel (1987b) where moderately to highly strained metabasite (unit 01b) encloses a large (300 by 200 m) tectonic siver of partially serpentinized and pyroxenite vein to pyroxenite vein. From southeast to northwest dunitic with minor harzburgite passes abruptly into pyroxenite vein. Other small tectonic sivers enclosed by metabasite (unit 01b) in this region contain harzburgite and pyroxenite. Other tectonic sivers enclosed by metabasite (unit 01b) in this region contain harzburgite and pyroxenite. Other tectonic sivers enclosed by metabasite (unit 01b) in this region contain harzburgite and pyroxenite. Other tectonic sivers enclosed by metabasite (unit 01b) in this region contain harzburgite and pyroxenite.

Carboniferous rocks

The Carboniferous rocks of the Bay St. George Subbasin (units C1 to C3) have been described in detail by Knight (1983) and were not mapped by the author. They unconformably overlie or are in fault contact with the Steel Mountain anorthosite (unit P1) to the southwest but are only in fault contact along the northwest margin.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

The Steel Mountain anorthosite contains numerous small pockets of titaniferous magnetite (unit P1a) and 1943 described large lenses of magnetite north of Flat Bay Brook, which contained about 7 percent TiO_2 . The metasedimentary rocks (unit PC2) locally contain accessory amounts of magnetite or pyrite. Quartzofeldspathic rocks of the Cornacks Lake Complex (unit PC1) may be particularly rich in pyrite, resulting in a distinctive rusty weathering surface. A concordant magnetite layer 3-20 cm wide and more than 2 m long was observed in quartzitic and semipelite rocks (unit 02) south of Dennis Pond. One outcrop of layered diabase (unit 03) on Burgeo Road (Route 480, 7.3 km east of the Long Range Fault, contains layers rich in magnetite. A brittle fault cutting diabase (unit 03) with minor quartz veins (unit 04) in the northeast corner of the map area is exposed in a stream and contains quartz veins. Another quartz vein sample (6W61P754) with about 2% pyrite has a content of 190 ppb Au, with minor pyrite. A quartz vein sample (6W61P754) with about 2% pyrite has a content of 190 ppb Au, with minor pyrite. A quartz vein sample (6W61P754) with about 2% pyrite has a content of 190 ppb Au, with minor pyrite.

Serpentine layers and inclusions (unit 01a) locally contain up to 10 percent chromite and magnetite in the form of thin veins (Van Berkel et al., 1986, Fig. 7) or as dispersed eudial crystals. Au-Fe-Pd analyses (Van Berkel et al., 1986, Table 1) and unpublished data of various serpentinite layers and inclusions (unit 01a) yield up to 40 ppb Au, up to 36 ppb Pt and up to 36 ppb Pd.

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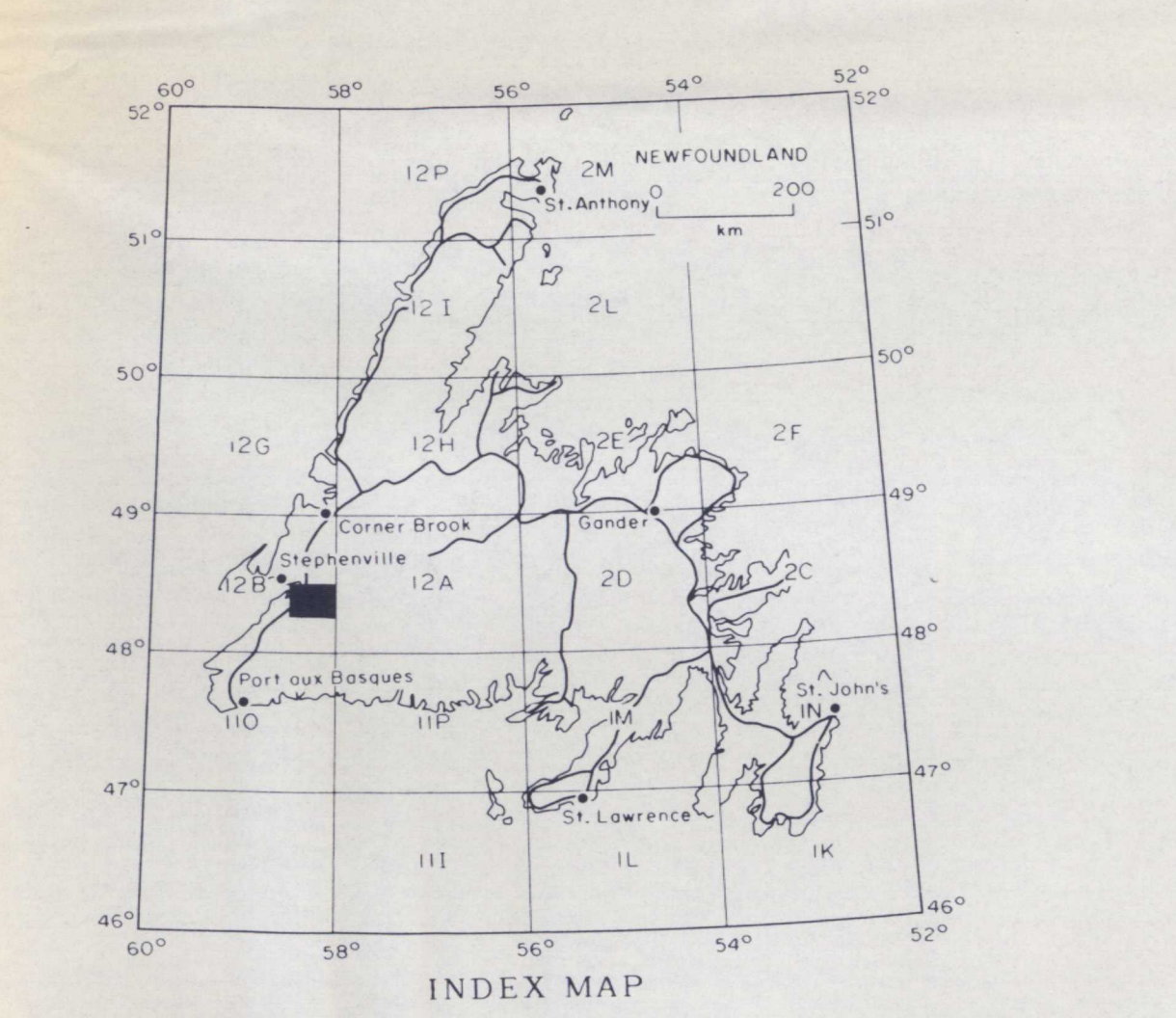
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GEOLOGY OF THE MAIN GUT MAP AREA, SOUTHWEST NEWFOUNDLAND

12 B/8

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