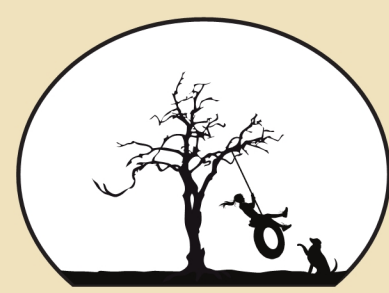


CONCEPTION BAY SOUTH T'RAILWAY.



the town of
Conception
Bay South

Long Pond.

Early History.

Taking its name from a large saltwater lagoon, Long Pond is really two rather shallow ponds, separated from the waters of Conception Bay by a natural, narrow rocky beach. Long Pond has been settled from at least 1803 when Barney Jones and John Kennedy received land grants in the Lookout area (west side of the Pond). Known as Upper Long Pond and Lower Long Pond, by 1840 other

families were living in the area. The population in 1845 was 135 inhabitants, making it at the time the largest community on the South Shore. In 1857 Long Pond was connected by road to St. John's and its population growth (374 in 1869) had been the result of agricultural productive lands being cleared and ready markets in St. John's.



An early photograph of Long Pond, with the "Gut" and the "Lookout" in the distance.

The Talc Mine.

The opening of a pyrophyllite mine, a non-metallic mineral that resembles 'talc' — the name which has stuck — provided additional employment for area residents. Production began in an open-pit mine on an inland ridge near Johnnie's Pond in 1903. The mine was connected by an overhead tramway to the main railway line. This area became known as 'Talcville'. From here the ore was transported to Seal Cove, and loaded onto ships bound for the United States, for further processing.

The mine closed after a few years, but reopened in 1937. The mine closed once more in 1947, reopening in 1957.

In the 1950s, the west end of Long Pond was dredged to provide an additional port to St. John's. It allowed



View of the mine with Conception Bay in the background.

for shipping the mineral right from Long Pond.

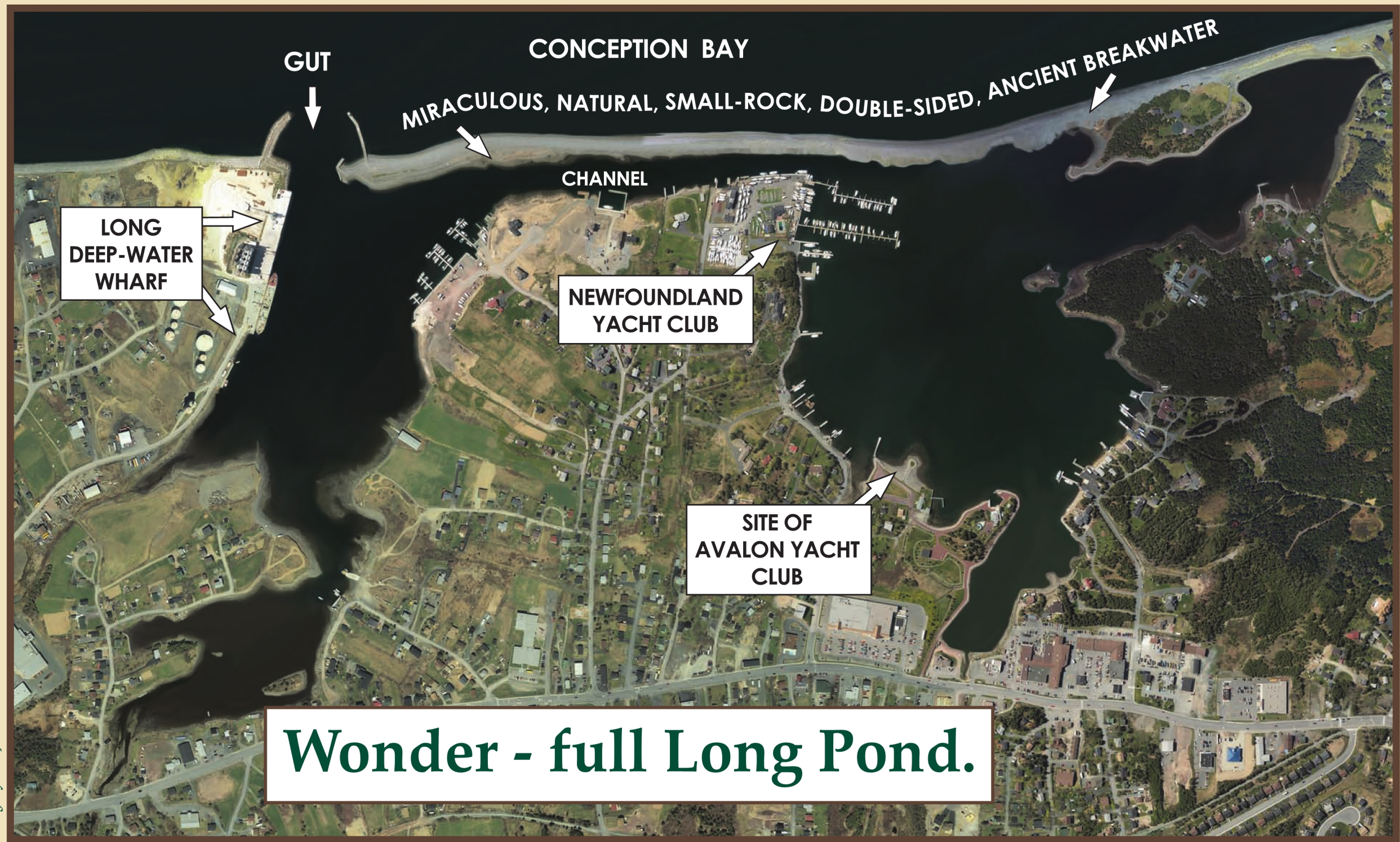
Trinity Resources began mining operations in 1999, and mines and mills up to 50,000 (with a potential of 200,000) tonnes annually worldwide. The ore is considered one of the brightest and whitest in the industry, and is used in paint, plastics, paper, rubber, and ceramics.



View of Canada's only producing pyrophyllite mine, showing the benches cut in the quarry face.



Aerial view of the ship-loading facility, port of Long Pond, where the ore is exported.



City of St. John's, Aerial

Wonder - full Long Pond.

Most ponds are landlocked. Large and small rivers and brooks fill or empty the ponds of fresh water. Most ponds have no navigable access to the sea, and therefore no large vessels.

Now, consider Long Pond. It has over four mi (six km) of internal shoreline, and direct access to the open waters of Conception Bay. Its entire seaward shore is a natural,

double-sided breakwater that has always kept both storms and tides "at bay".

It was not until the very early 1800s that the first farmer-fishermen settled Long Pond. Forward 200 years we have been fortunate to have the families of Eason, Greenslade, Janes, Kennedy, Porter, Rideout, and Taylor populate Long Pond and the entire South Shore.



Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club

The original Avalon Yacht Club opened in 1936, and was extremely popular. It was appropriated as a reserve emergency hospital during

WWII, but was never used. It burned to the ground by vandals in 1943 and was never rebuilt.



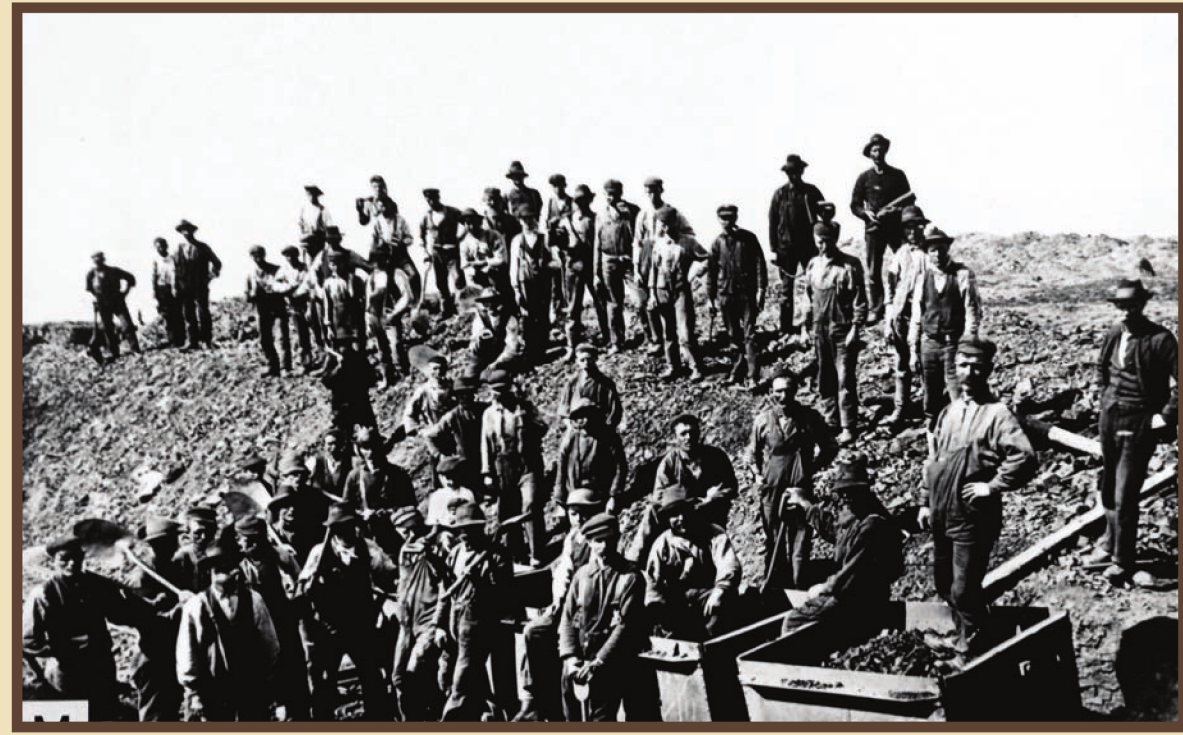
Johnson Family Foundation

In 1957, the Newfoundland Yacht Club was established, for larger boats, that could travel farther, with

more friends and crew aboard. In 1964, it was given the title "Royal".

Farming and Mining.

The fertile land in Long Pond was ideal for farming and the early residents cleared ground to make gardens to grow vegetables and hay, or raise farm animals such as cattle, sheep, and pigs. Railway connection in 1882 further enabled farmers to more easily sell their produce in St. John's. The agricultural statistics for 1901 shows 277 tons of hay and over 4,200 barrels of potatoes and turnips were produced. Dirt paths – now our streets – snaked further inland as more ground was cleared. There are sixth generational farmers operating here, although farming is by no means the main employer it once was. The opening of the iron ore mines on Bell Island in 1895 created an opportunity to work for wages. The men worked ten hour shifts, six days a week, until the



Bell Island Heritage Society Inc.

Miners at a Bell Island open-pit mine, early-1900s.

eight-hour day came into effect in 1943. The men from this shore lived in bunkhouses, known as "mess shacks", on Bell Island during the week and often worked extra hard on Fridays to ensure they met their quota of ore so they could go home on the weekends. Work in the mines slowed during both World Wars because a main customer was Germany. In 1966 the mines closed permanently due to ore being mined cheaper elsewhere.

World War I.

The call to arms came on August 4, 1914 with the declaration of war by Great Britain against Germany. The boys and men of this shore answered the call. Many joined the Royal Navy and others the Newfoundland Regiment. Records show that 32 made the supreme sacrifice.

The First World War changed the face of Newfoundland with so many not returning home – they were 'better than the best' and 'we shall never forget them'.



The Rooms Provincial Archives Division Vol. 11083

Early WWI volunteers display a recruitment poster, "Which? Have you a reason or only an excuse for not enlisting now?"

First Town Council.

By the time of amalgamation to become a Local Improvement District in 1971, there were 1,758 residents of Long Pond, an increase of 421 in five years. The application to become the Town of Conception Bay South was granted by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in August, 1973 and the first municipal election was held on November 13th that year. Gerald Greenslade, a native of Long Pond, businessman, and WWII veteran, was elected the first Mayor, and served until 1977.



Town of Conception Bay South

The first elected council, Town of Conception Bay South, 1973. Front Row L-R: G.A. Roberts, G.M. Greenslade, A. Baker. Back Row L-R: A.H. Dawe, R.V. Steele, E.V. Caines, K.P. Dawe, G. Barnes, E.C. Kennedy.

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