

Steep Rock Iron Mines fonds

1890-1979

Microfilm copy, 4 reels of textual records

Administrative history

The Steep Rock Mines were developed in the Second World War because of the huge demand for iron ore. Though the extent of the field had long been known, the cost of extracting the ore from beneath Steep Rock Lake had made profitable mining prohibitive. General Don Hogarth, President from 1942, with the financial backing of Cyrus Eaton and others (including considerable backing from the Canadian and American governments, the latter through the Reconstructive Finance Corporation), drained the lake and began open pit mining. The first ore was mined in September, 1944. After the war expansion was undertaken and a second major ore body opened up. 17,000 tons of ore were shipped in 1945, by 1951 this figure had reached 1,327,000 and, by 1956, 3,389,000 tons, the peak year for production. After 1956 production declined even though underground mining was added to the open pit operations. In 1953, Inland Steel Company exercised its option to lease part of the ore body at Steep Rock, and through its Canadian subsidiary, Caland Ore Company Limited, it began extracting ore in 1960 in quantities rivalling that of Steep Rock Iron Mines. In 1976 Canadian Pacific Investments Limited purchased controlling interest in Steep Rock, though by then the mine was in its final years of production, as the ore body was rapidly depleting. The mine closed its doors for good in 1979.

Scope and Content

Series B 27/1/1-4. - microfilm. - 4 reels

Records divested by the company just before it closed in 1980 including:

Reel One: 1) George T. Macks/R.H. Flaherty Papers, 1890-1917, 1940, documents, correspondence and reports on the early development of the Steep Rock property. 2)

Development history, 1939-1957. 3) Pamphlets and annual reports, 1944-1976. 4) Mineral Industry Operation Reports and correspondence, 1975-1979. 5) Picture Scrapbook, 1945-1947.

Reel Two: 6) Employee newsletters, *The Bulletin* and *Steep Rock Features*, 1967-1979.

Reel Three: 7) *Steep Rock Echo*, Dec. 1945-April 1961. 8) Jesse Rawn Scrapbook on Steep Rock and Atikokan history, 1956. 9-14) Six scrapbooks, 1938-1959.

Reel Four: 15) M.S. Fotheringham correspondence on ore shipping, 1962-1967.

Notes

Originals and reproductions

Original documents are located at the Atikokan Centennial Museum. Microfilmed by Ontario Archives, ms.558.