

'THE BRITANNIA STORY'

FIND THE ALL-CAPITALIZED WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

In 1888, Dr. Alexander FORBES went prospecting for COPPER in the BRITANNIA Mountains. Having no luck finding copper he decided to do some hunting. Hunting proved to be a good choice, for he found and shot a BUCK. When that buck fell to the ground, it kicked over rocks, exposing CHALCOPYRITE, a mineral that contains copper. Dr. Forbes found what he had been looking for, or more accurately, the buck found it for him.

Dr. Forbes tried, but did not start the mine. Ten years after Forbes made his discovery; new PROSPECTORS arrived and staked mineral CLAIMS. In 1902, mining ENGINEER George H. ROBINSON purchased the claims and began to build a MINE and the first MILL for separating the valuable copper MINERAL from the ROCK.

It took quite a bit of MONEY to start the mine. Fortunately, Robinson had INVESTORS like Grant Barny SCHLEY who believed the mine would be profitable. The first years were not.

The Mine faced several challenges in its first years. Robinson died in 1906 and the next few years were not profitable. In 1911, John Wedderburn Dunbar MOODIE was hired to turn the mine into a success. Moodie succeeded in making the Mine profitable, but it still faced challenges over the next ten years.

In 1915, a rock slide crushed the upper camp killing 57 people. In 1918, the FLU pandemic left a large portion of the people sick. In 1921, two more DISASTERS struck. In the spring, Mill 2 burnt down. In the fall, a FLOOD washed Britannia Beach into the ocean, killing 36 people.

The people of Britannia always pulled together though. One man in particular is remembered for trying to help his neighbors. Yip BING took food to the sick in 1918 and jumped onto floating houses to rescue the trapped during the flood.

Moodie left in 1920. In 1921 another mining engineer, Carlton Perkins BROWNING, took his place as the man in charge at Britannia. He oversaw

construction of Mill 3 and the growth of Britannia into the largest copper mine in the British Empire in 1930.

Then the depression hit. While slowed, the efficient and innovative choices of Browning allowed Britannia to fare better than many other places.

Then war broke out. Copper was essential for producing munitions and weapons. Britannia produced as much as it could. It was the BOOM times once again. War would hit home for Britannia in more ways than one, however. The single biggest blow to the community came in 1942, when following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Canadian Government decided to intern all people of Japanese ancestry living within 100 miles of the Pacific coast. Almost overnight, a large portion of Britannia was gone. In an interview Barry THOMPSON said 'I lost my friend.'

War also caused a shortage of workers. To meet demand, the Company hired almost anyone. The high number of inexperienced workers resulted in an increase in accidents. SAFETY was always important to workers, as well as the Company, but now people felt their concerns could only be met if they formed a UNION. In previous years, miners had tried to unionize but management always managed to prevent it. It took some ingenuity on the part of Henry MURPHY in 1943 to sign up enough workers in one weekend before management could stop him.

The war ending was bittersweet for Britannia. Everyone was happy the war was over, but the drop in demand for copper made it unprofitable to be mining it. Fortunately, one of the last things Browning did before retiring was take a gamble on mining the ZINC at Britannia. The gamble was mine it, store it, and sell it if zinc prices go up. War once again was good to Britannia. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, demand for zinc went up, and so did the price.

The zinc boom was short lived and the remainder of the 1950s brought hard times for the Mine. In 1958 it closed, but this was not the end. In 1959 the Mine re-opened.

Four years later the Mine was purchased by ANACONDA. It seemed the mine had a future once more, but mining is a risky business.

One year after the purchase, the union went on STRIKE. They were demanding higher wages than the Company was willing to give. After seven months, and threats of permanently closing the mine, an agreement was reached and the Mine was alive once again.

In November of 1974 the Mine would close one more time. Copper prices had dropped very low. At the same time, the cost of operating the mine was climbing. The Mine could no longer be profitable.

Closing a mine is as demanding as opening a mine, if it is done responsibly. When our mine closed, British Columbia was just starting to recognize some of the environmental impacts of mining.

The environmental issue for Britannia is Acid Mine Drainage (AMD). When water, air, and bacterium interact with the mineral PYRITE, the water becomes acidic and contaminated with iron. When this natural process occurs on its own it is called Acid Rock Drainage. The term AMD is used to signify that the pollution is forming because of human activity.

In this acidic water other metals such as copper dissolve. This is called Metal LEACHING. For Britannia, the most significant impact on aquatic life came from the copper.

Too much copper in the water and it is toxic to marine life.

There was too much copper in the water flowing from the Britannia Mine.

Fortunately, the Mine had been removing the copper from the water while the mine was running. The provincial government required the copper removal continue following the closure and from 1974-79 this did happen.

But the new landowners did not continue maintaining the water treatment process. When the system failed in the 1980s, AMD began to flow into Britannia Creek and the Britannia intertidal zone.

The result was a major pollution problem which left the affected waterways essentially dead.

It remained that way until 2005 when action was taken to treat the AMD and restore the local waterways. The AMD is cleaned at the EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant before being released into Howe Sound. Within one month of the plant going into operation, scientists noticed a positive change in the Britannia intertidal zone of Howe Sound. Today, both the intertidal zone and the creeks have recovered from the years of POLLUTION.

Over its 70 years of operation, Britannia contributed significantly to the economies of both British Columbia and Canada, providing both raw resources we depend upon as well as JOBS.

Britannia is now a model for how the ENVIRONMENT around old mine sites can be successfully restored as well as model for how modern mines engage in environmental protection throughout the life of a mine.

'THE BRITANNIA STORY' WORD SEARCH

T H O M P S O N M A Y E N O M V S I S L
G N I B E O Y I U I N W X V R R E N T E
F E L C Y K N L U E O A F O O I R V R A
O P N D S E F S S I I R C T D O T E I C
E N V I R O N M E N T P C O C P M S K H
M R S A N M T V U M E E O K N U K T E I
N D L A M D J V D R P M L S V D H O E N
O J O Y I J S I I S P V I A E C A R T G
I F S O L Z S M O G I H T L L J P S I C
N D E W L A W R I B Y H Y Q C Y G G R G
U B F E S F P R S A F E T Y R N F D Y L
M D R T N O I T U L L O P I I F Z P P V
A O E I B U C K G T R C T N M J Y F O N
E R O Z T W W U K A O E W O B O E S C O
S J F B P A J J M A J O E I U B L X L S
D H V A X X N M S Y R S O N D S H Y A N
I X X W Q A N N G B C Z M S I T C Z H I
R E P P O C Q N I C N S H I A G S I C B
D V G N F D X A T A I R H C N E N U Z O
H V L N N A K D D U Z L H I R E T E V R

AMD
BOOM
BUCK
COPPER
ENVIRONMENT
FLU
MILL
MONEY
POLLUTION
ROBINSON
SCHLEY
UNION

ANACONDA
BRITANNIA
CHALCOPYRITE
DISASTERS
EPCOR
INVESTORS
MINE
MOODIE
PROSPECTORS
ROCK
STRIKE
ZINC

BING
BROWNING
CLAIMS
ENGINEER
FLOOD
LEACHING
MINERAL
MURPHY
PYRITE
SAFETY
THOMPSON
JOBS

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ANSWER KEY

T H O M P S O N M A Y E N O M V S I S L
G N I B E O Y I U I N W X V R R E N T E
F E L C Y K N L U E O A F O O I R V R A
O P N D S E F S S I I R C T D O T E I C
E N V I R O N M E N T P C G C P M S K H
M R S A N M T V U M E E O K N U K T E I
N B L A M D J V D R F M L S V D H O E N
O J O Y I J S I I S P V I A E C A R T G
I F S Q L Z S M O G I H T L L J P S I C
N D E W L A W R I B Y H Y Q C Y G G R G
U B F E S F F R S A F E T Y R N F D Y L
M D R T N O I T U L L O P I I F Z P P V
A O E I B U C K G T R C T N M J Y F O N
E R O Z T W W U K A O E W O B O E S C O
S J F B P A J J M A J O E I U B L X L S
D H V A X X N M S Y R S O N D S H Y A N
I X X W Q A N N G B C Z M S I T C Z H I
R E P P O C Q N I C N S H I A G S I C B
D V G N F D X A T A I R H C N E N U Z O
H V L N N A K D D U Z L H I R E T E V R

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