

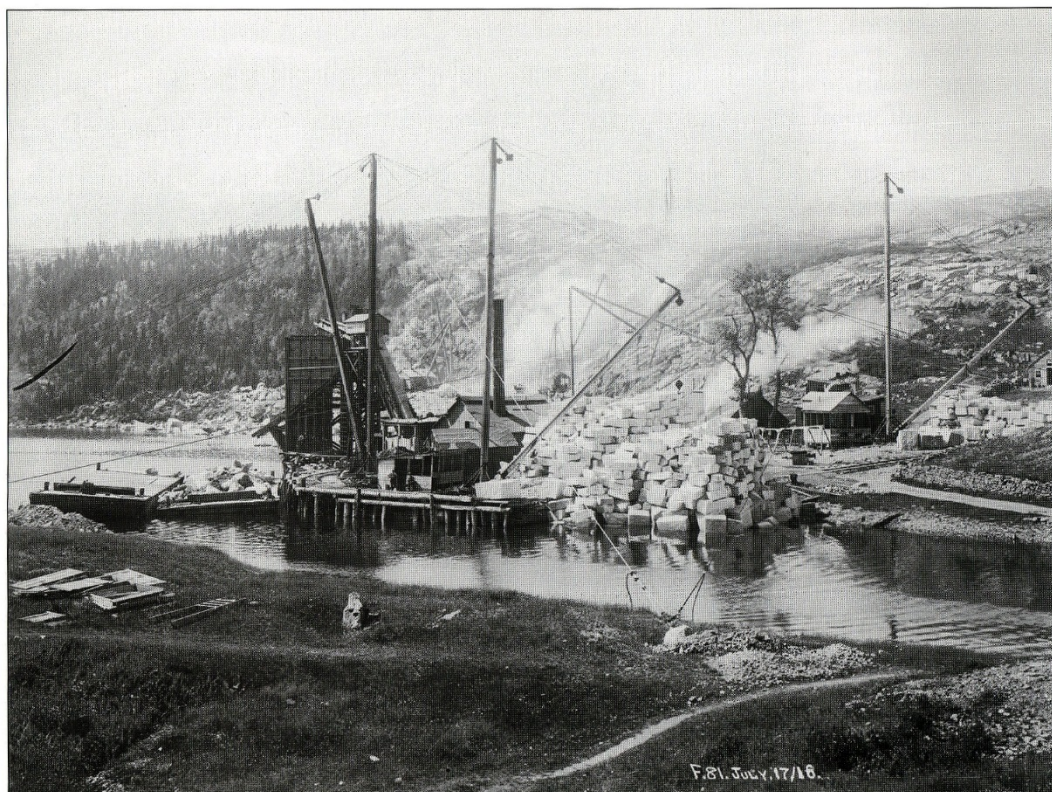
Historical importance of the Purcell's Cove Quarries

The Purcells' Cove Quarries deserve attention and preservation, because they represent important industrial centres related to the construction of Halifax and military defences on Citadel Hill and Halifax Harbour.

- The Quarries (referred to as **Kings' Quarries, Queen's Quarries**) have been active since before 1793 when York Redoubt and Martello Tower were built; the stone used was extracted from Purcells Cove Quarries. In 1826 the quarries and land passed to the Royal Engineers. All the stone (with minor exceptions) for the Citadel, the Town Clock and the Grand Parade came from these quarries. The Quarries operated until 1957.
- **The Kings Quarry**, centred at 521 Purcell's Cove Road (**Coordinates: 44°36'36.45" N; 63°34'27.25" W**). It mined granite and occupied a large area from the coast to about 400 m on the plateau (the Backlands), where numerous artifacts and stone foundations from the industrial operation can be found.
- Among the significant remnants is the massive stone bed of the **Trolley Track**, that goes from the port facility at Indian Cove, 300m behind the Purcells Cove Social Club, up to the plateau, 60 m above sea level, and continued with a railway track where steam engines transported the granite blocks for another 300 m. It is understood that the steam railway in Purcell's Cove started operating in 1834, making it older than the "**oldest industrial railway in Atlantic Canada**", the 1839 railway at Albion Mines, Pictou County).
- **The Bluestone Quarry**, in Bluestone Road (**Coordinates: 44°36'53.79" N; 63°34'33.33" W**) mined slate or bluestone. This rock was used to build most of Dalhousie and many important buildings in Halifax and military defenses in York Redoubt. It was referred to as Dalhousie Quarry until a few decades ago. This operation occupied an area 300m by 150m and also had its own solid stone wharf, still preserved.
- The historic **Trolley Track** ruins also have a road by them (**18th Battery Road**) that led to the military quarries on the plateau (for truck traffic), but also to an **anti-aircraft battery** located between the end of Oceanview and Colpitt Lake (ruins visible there).
- Indian Cove on the north end of Purcell's Cove, where the King's Quarry wharf was located, was a known Mi'kmaq camp area, and from there trails led to fishing and hunting grounds. The NS Archives has photographs of rock **petroglyphs** discovered in the vicinity of Colpitt Lake.

These historical ruins and remains deserve to be protected and respected as part of our heritage.

M.Zentilli, Nov 20, 2015 (photos from NS Archives).



Quarry Wharf at Indian Cove.



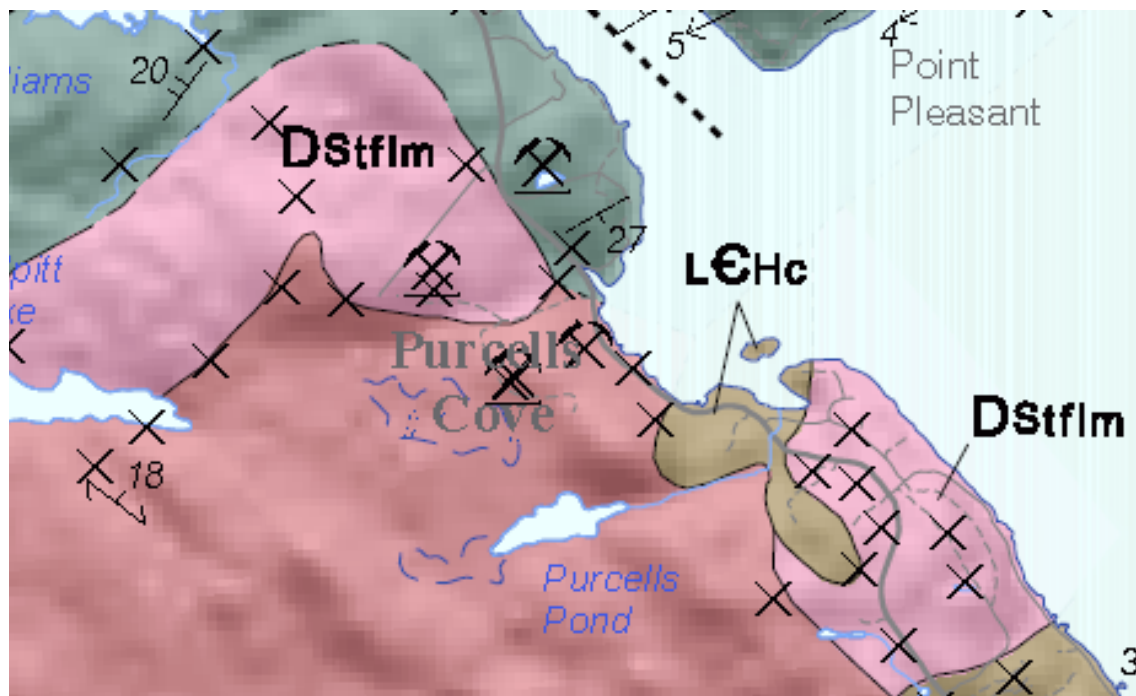
Probably the first railroad in Nova Scotia, later known as the Trolley Track.

(PANS)



The railroad at the top of the hill.

(PANS)



Geological Map from NSDNR showing the mining operations (crossed pick-axes).