



THE LEGEND OF PETE

Peter Sofanski was an immigrant to Canada at the turn of the century. He worked in Southern Ontario on various jobs until he heard about the silver and gold discoveries in the north. Arriving in the Porcupine area late in July 1909, he set out to find a strike. He travelled for a while, and then he came upon a large swampy area. Undaunted, he floundered through muskeg and tag alders, looking for rock outcrops. He came to a low ridge and sat down to rest. Idly scraping at moss and leaves, while pondering which direction to take next, he bared a small patch of rock. Yellow streaks of gold threaded their way through pure white quartz. He was sure this was his strike!

With difficulty, he broke off several pieces of the quartz containing the largest amounts of the gold thread. Carefully, he recovered the bared rock and set up claim posts to mark it, noting as he went, landmarks, such as they were, in the low, wet country. These he sketched on paper, not trusting to memory the location of the claim in the swampy ground.

Pete's Secret

Elated, he headed back to town with his discovery. He slept only fitfully that night, as he kept his secret to himself. Early the next morning he headed for the "outside" to register his claim.

With winter coming and little cash in hand, Pete decided to work in the south to make enough money to return to his claim in the spring. Shrewdly, he decided that his discovery would remain his own secret until the next year.

A Wasting Time

So Pete spent the winter doing menial tasks, hugging the secret of his find in his heart, and with the coming of spring, he headed back up north.

After several hours of travel, over the still-frozen ground, he realized that things looked a lot different than when he had last been in the area. He pushed on desperately trying to find his landmarks.

Hours stretched into days. He crossed and re-crossed the country, going back to his starting point time after time.

Days stretched into weeks, weeks into months and finally, no nearer to his goal than he had been in March, Pete found that his money had run out. Still he kept his secret, but parted with his specimens for the cash to continue to eat.

Disillusioned

Thoroughly confused and disillusioned, Pete hit the bottle. He hoped that this would revive his spirits. During his flights of fancy, Pete babbled about his lost mine. It wasn't long before the story spread throughout the camp and Pete was the subject of derision and laughter. He periodically tried to find the mine again, but once more winter set in and he had to give up.

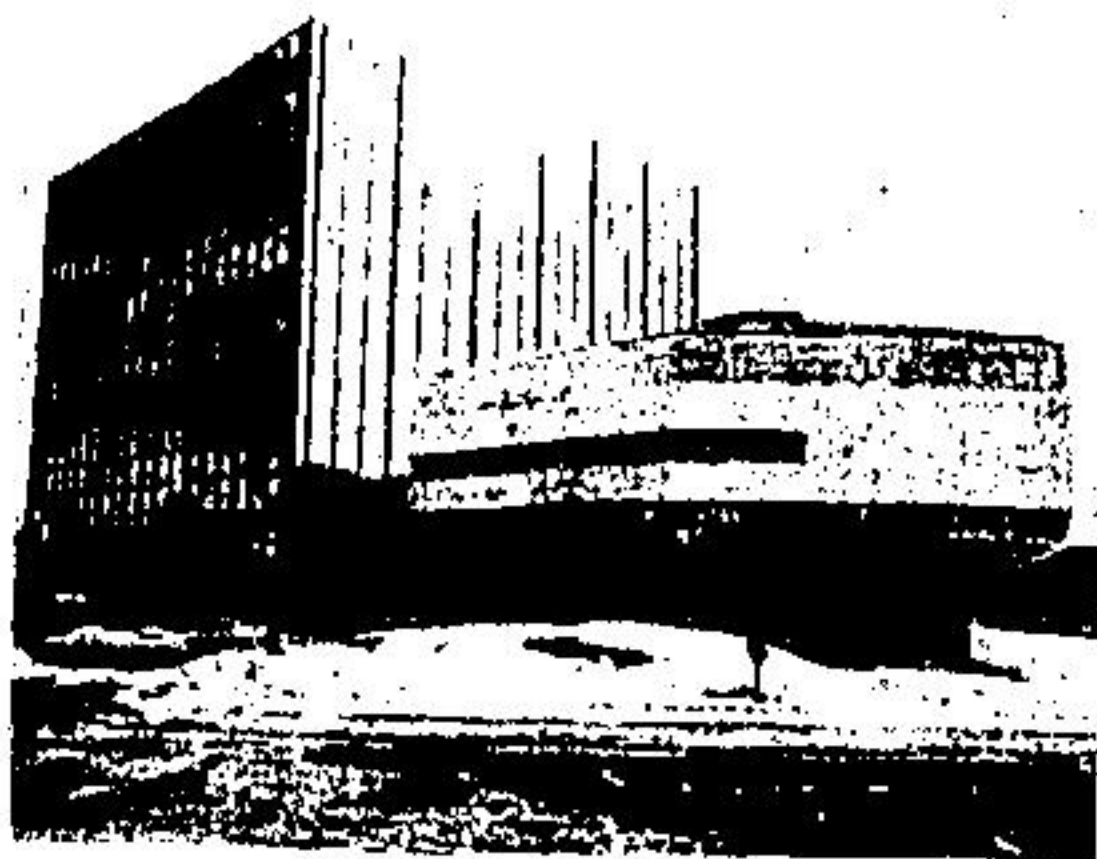
Spring of 1911 saw him once more back out in the bush and swamp—searching, searching, searching—but never with any luck.

On July 11, 1911, a great fire swept through the area, burning hundreds of square miles of bush and swamp, and destroying the town. As soon as the fire died out, Pete went out again, hoping that the searing, scorching bush fire would have burned off moss and leaves and tag alders enough that his "find" would show up clearly to him. In a matter of a few hours of wandering, he realized there was no hope.

A few days later, Pete finally left the area, completely disheartened.

Where is Pete's rich gold vein? No one knows to this day—has it been mined out in the years since, or is it still lost on a low, moss-covered outcrop in a swamp?

NORTH BAY



North Bay's new City Hall.

Gateway to the North... a good place to live... and a great place for a vacation! North Bay, situated on the shore of beautiful Lake Nipissing, offers a multitude of activities to the visitor, summer or winter, fall or spring.

Fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing, hiking, tennis, golf—all this, combined with modern shopping malls, fine restaurants, fast food take-out services, and nightly entertainment of all kinds and for all ages.

Skiing, skating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, hunting—all the popular winter sports, complemented by some of the best accommodations in Canada... from rustic cottages to sophisticated hotels and motels... whatever suits the traveller's taste and finances.

And North Bay has one other valuable asset... a HUGE amount of great Northern Hospitality, so make this city your one-stop winter or summer vacation spot—you are cordially welcome to North Bay, "Gateway to the North".

COCHRANE

A white polar bear welcomes you to Cochrane.

Cochrane, only 450 miles north of Toronto, is a new world. Built around the 55-acre Commando Lake, it is known around the world as the base for some of the best hunting and fishing excursions available.

Established in the 1800's, Cochrane was the door to James Bay, and it still is today. It is the home of the Polar Bear Express, that curious, fascinating train that has taken thousands of people to the shores of James Bay.

While waiting for your ride north, though, take a tour of Cochrane—there are lots of places to visit and enjoy, for Cochrane is more than a stop-over; it's a beautiful community. Municipal parks border on the lake and just south of Cochrane, there are Hector and Norman Lakes, part of the 75-acre Drury Park. All the parks offer camping facilities, camp sites, picnic tables, running water and toilet facilities.

And, as though that wasn't enough, all three lakes are stocked with fish each year, and the hunting in the area is excellent.

Can you really afford to miss a visit to the town of Cochrane? A vacationer's Shangri-Lai!

