

A quarry is an inappropriate use beside Miles Canyon



Though the map in the March 20, 2017 council agenda package (above left) shows little happening by the river, actually, this location is above Miles Canyon, our popular recreation and tourism destination. Putting a quarry here is a bad idea. Here's why.

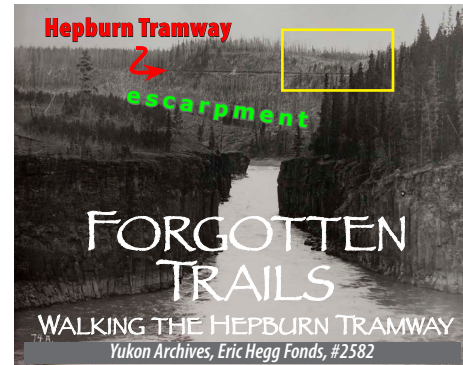
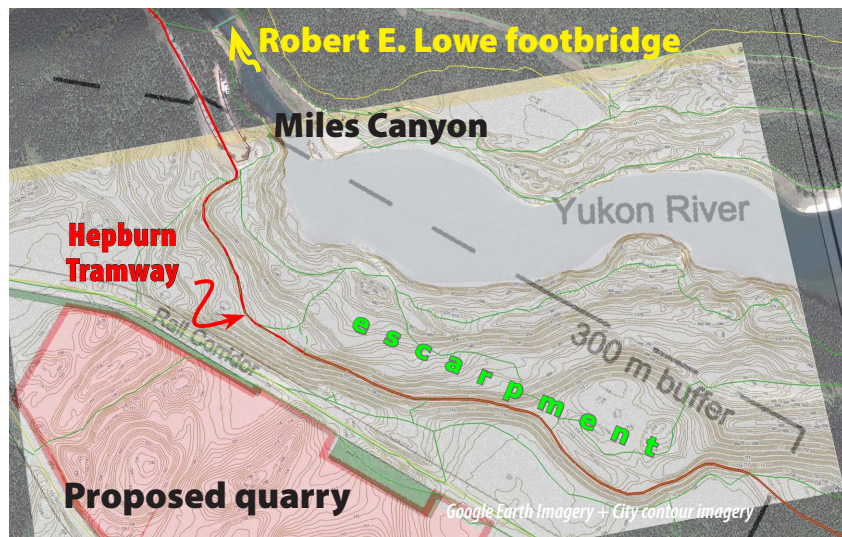
The map also doesn't show that on the Miles Canyon side of the rail corridor, the land drops dramatically towards the Yukon River (see contour map below). The little known, but still present, 1898 Hepburn Tramway (red line) descends along this escarpment slope below the rail corridor.

Last year, while scouting a walking trail along the Yukon River, I came upon the 1898 Hepburn Tramway. I've been working to see if this walking destination-active transportation route could become our City's first Historical Walk.

In February, YHMA honoured my Hepburn Tramway work:

Innovation, Education and Community Engagement Award: *Peter Long's recent research and website publication, [Forgotten Trails: Walking the Hepburn Tramway](#), demonstrates leadership and an outstanding contribution to Yukon heritage preservation. Peter's work on the Hepburn Trail is fueled by his desire to have aspects of our local history valued, protected, and developed.*

The tramway is clearly visible on the Hegg photograph taken in 1897–1898, used on the cover of my *Forgotten Trails* paper. The yellow box on the photos show the same area where the rail corridor comes close to the escarpment edge. The quarry is to be located just on the other side of the rail corridor.



The left photograph, taken before the 1922 footbridge, shows the rail corridor just above the escarpment slope and the tramway. It shows the tramway coming towards today's viewpoint overlooking Miles Canyon.

We should be thinking about future recreational trails along the river. What if some year the rail corridor is declared out of bounds? With a big slope on one side of the tracks and a big quarry on the other, this could be a major impediment to City recreational trail plans such as a Yukon River Trail.

One need only visit Ear Lake to understand what a quarry area looks like during and after use. We don't want to have this happen to the Miles Canyon area where thousands of people come to hike and recreate. It's important to think of the future. Wouldn't it be nice if people in the south of town, for instance Spruce Hill residents or visitors staying in the Wolf Creek Campground, were encouraged to walk or bike along trails to Miles Canyon, and along the river to downtown?



Land so close to great recreation and to downtown could be used much more creatively. I hope Mayor and Council vote this proposal down.

Peter Long, Hillcrest resident, [whitehorsewalks.com](#), March 24, 2017

