

Split Rock

SITE #100201

GC1VCMN

Written & Researched by Bruce Madu

SITE IDENTIFICATION

Nearest Community: Savona, V0K 2J0
 Location: N 50°53.982'
 W 120°57.321'
 Parking: N 50°53.954'
 W 120°57.075'
 Geocache Location: N 50°53.965'
 W 120°57.105'
 Accuracy: 5 meters
 Letterboxing Clues: Refer to letterboxing
 clues page
 UTM: East 0644029;
 North 5640638 10U
 Geocache altitude: 738 m./2,422 ft.
 Overall difficulty: 1
 Terrain difficulty: 4
 (1=easiest; 5=hardest)
 Date Established: n/a
 Ownership: Leased Crown Land
 Access: • Gravel Road
 • Year-round
 • Vehicle accessible
 • *Detailed access*
 information on next
 page.



Split Rock is named for the deep fissure that splits this massive rock body into two distinct parts and can be clearly seen from the eastern side of the hill along the Criss Creek road.

Local legends tell that early trails crossed through the fissure of Split Rock – which would not have been an easy feat! The North West Fur Trading Company traveled near this location route in the early 1800s to a trading post once located just above Vidette Lake.

It has been told that the Deadman Valley was named after the murder of a French-Canadian clerk named Charette. He was apparently knifed to death during an argument with a traveling companion and his body was found in the river, near the North West Fur Trading post.

Very different from the rocks around it, the Split Rock of Deadman Valley is described by geologists as a breccia pipe: a tall

'chimney' of rock exposed as its surrounding volcanic host was eroded away. When looking at fallen rock and exposures in the road cuts below Split Rock you will see rocks comprised of a conglomeration of broken fragments of many shapes and sizes. These are the products of volcanic eruptions, many of which were partially crystallized in the chimney of a volcano prior to their ejection to the surface. It might be hard to imagine today – but you are in volcano country!

Geologists have also mapped large faults running the length of the Deadman Valley and beyond. Movement along these faults was largely horizontal, similar to the famous San Andreas Fault, and contributed to the landscape you see today. Faults certainly played a key role in the geological history of the area and have given us many phenomena such as Split Rock.

Mineral explorationists have been keenly aware of the role of

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faulting and volcanic activity in the valley and have pursued veins and other concentrations of gold and silver. In support of the ongoing pursuit of the mineral wealth of the valley, numerous active mineral claims exist along Criss Creek and around the historic Vidette Gold mine.

As you visit this unique phenomenon, ponder the powerful forces that created the landscape before you, the gentle toll of erosion that revealed it and the wonder of all those who came before you.

Detailed access information:

- From Hwy #1, access Deadman Vidette Rd.
- Head east on Criss Creek Forest Service Rd. to parking coordinates.
- Watch for cactus and in season, ticks and snakes.
- Criss Creek is a staked waterway, please respect all private operations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES

Bryan, J. & Bryan, L. (1975). *Backroads of British Columbia*. Vancouver, BC: Sunflower Books.

Ireland, J. (1979). *GUICHON EXPLORCO LIMITED: geological and geochemical surveys D.M. claims – Kamloops Mining Division, B.C. Kamloops, B.C.*: Mineral Resources Branch.