The Dutch

We are Gosro Karimlou, Msc. Student Hydrology and Marlos van Lipzig, Msc. Student Physical Geography both from Utrecht University in the city of Utrecht. We have done our Msc. fieldwork at the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC). Our supervisor is Dr. Marcel van der Perk who is in collaboration with Dr. Phil Owens from the UNBC.
We ended up doing our Msc fieldwork at the QRRC trough this collaboration. Dr. Phil Owens provided us with a research subject that was very interesting for us.
For our Msc. thesis we are interested in the effects of land use on the geochemistry of the fine sediments in gravelbed rivers. Because of the time limitations we have concentrated only on mining areas.

Utrecht is the fourth biggest city in the Netherlands, just 30km south of Amsterdam. In the city, 20% of its inhabitants are students. This makes it the perfect city that has everything a student needs. Utrecht is famous because of all the canals that flow trough it, the large Dom tower and the long buses.

We have investigated the effects of the active Mt. Polly mine on the metal content in Hazeltine creek and Hazeltine delta. We have done a spatial analysis and a temporal analysis. To confirm if the geochemistry is different in a creek that is draining

a mine from a more pristine creek, we have also taken samples in the Edney creek, which confluences with Hazeltine creek before entering the lake (figure 2).

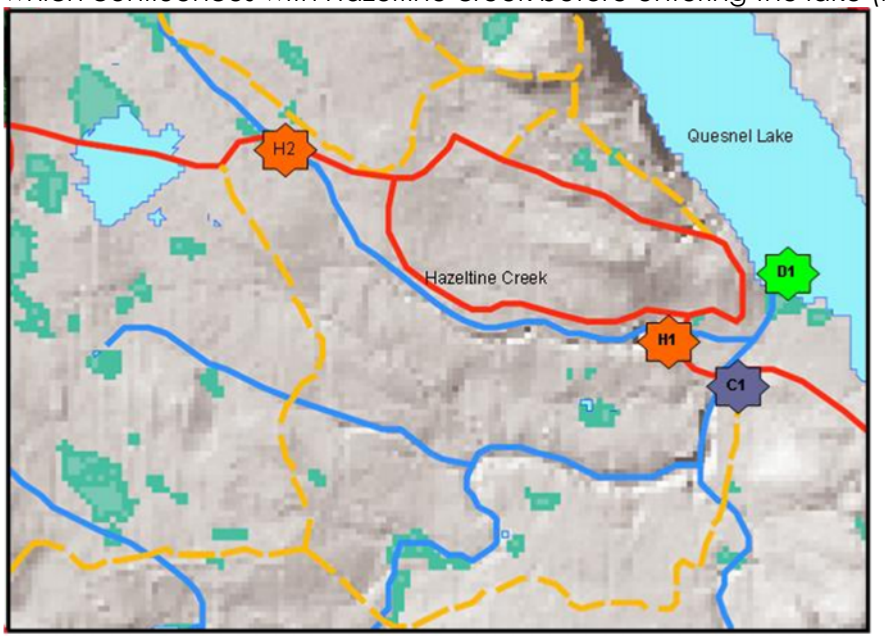

Figure 2: Sample locations, H stands for Hazeltine creek, C for Edney creek and D stands for delta.

We have also investigated Pine creek, which drains a non active gold mining area. At this location we also did a temporal and a spatial analysis of metal content in the fine sediments.
(figure 2).

Figure 2: Pine creek

We have taken suspended-sediment samples using a Phillips sampler and bed-sediment samples using a stainless steel, bottomless trashcan. Those samples are taken for the spatial part of the research. For the temporal part, we have taken a core from Hazeltine delta and upstream in a wetland, formed near the Hazeltine creek. Further we have taken vertical profiles at all sample locations. We have also taken a vertical profile in the delta of Pine creek.

In a few weeks time we will receive the results of the metal content in our samples and we can start writing our thesis. When we finish our thesis it will be published on the website of Utrecht University and a copy will me made available at the QRRC so that everyone who is interested can read it.

We would like to thank Phil Owens and Ellen Petticrew from the UNBC , Richard Holmes and Laszlo Enyedy from the QRRC and our supervisor from the Netherlands Marcel van der Perk for their help and support during our stay at the research centre.

We have enjoyed our eight weeks at the QRRC very much and we hope to return there some day in the future. Maybe for research, or maybe just for fun!