

From: Living in the SHED: the North Saskatchewan River Watershed in Alberta

Published by North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.

December 2015



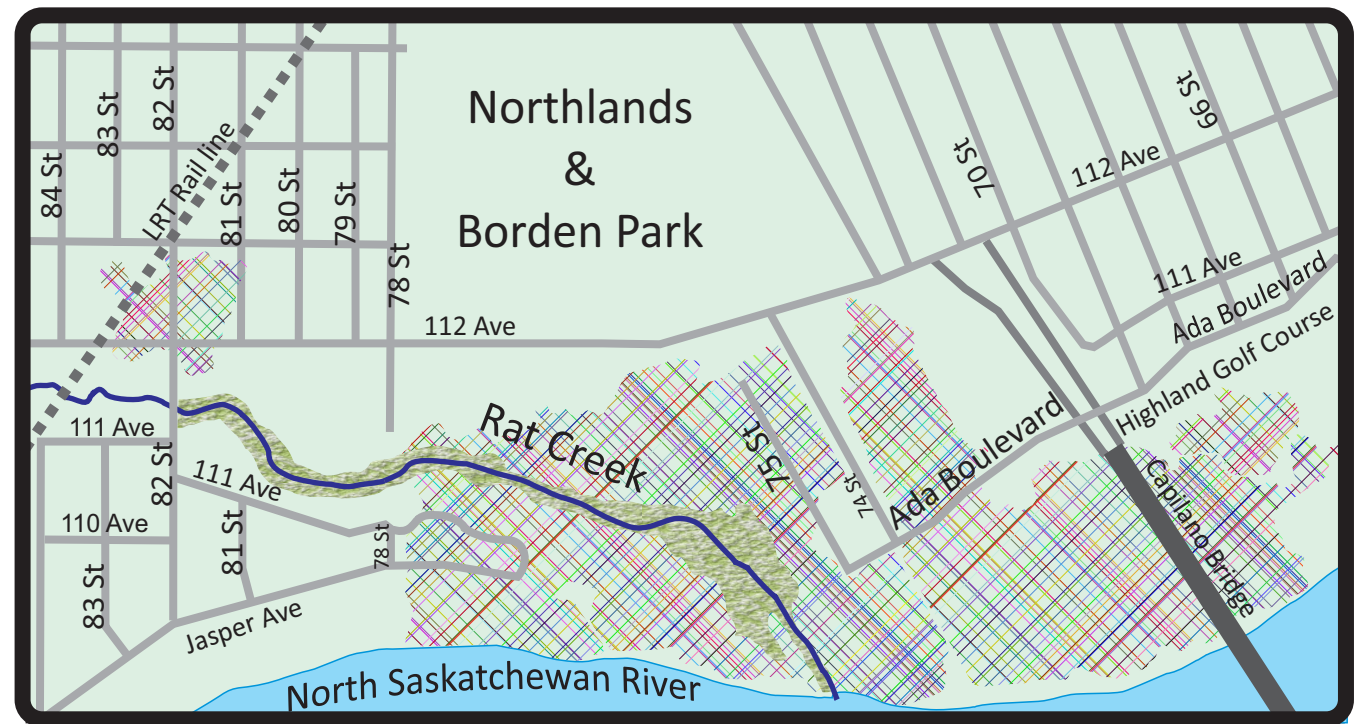
Early coal mines along the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton

The coal seams along the North Saskatchewan River valley at Edmonton are composed of transformed plant matter laid down 280 million years ago. It is a sub-bituminous coal, low in ash, burning long and bright. From about 1875 into the 1980s, when the last commercial coal mine in the Greater Edmonton Area shut down, there were at least 160 mines and prospects recorded. Mine workings covered 3,260 acres (1319 hectares) and produced over 15 million tons of coal. The local economy received a significant boost from this activity. Many of the early coal mines were small “gopher hole” mines, burrowed into the river bank, following coal seams in.

The **Weaver coal seam** is the uppermost seam in the Greater Edmonton Area. It accounts for mines worked in the Norwood, Kinnaird, Cromdale and Ada Boulevard neighbourhoods.

The **Upper Clover Bar coal seam** is about 25 metres (82 feet) above the Lower Clover Bar seam, reaching the surface downstream at the Rundle-Gold Bar Park footbridge.

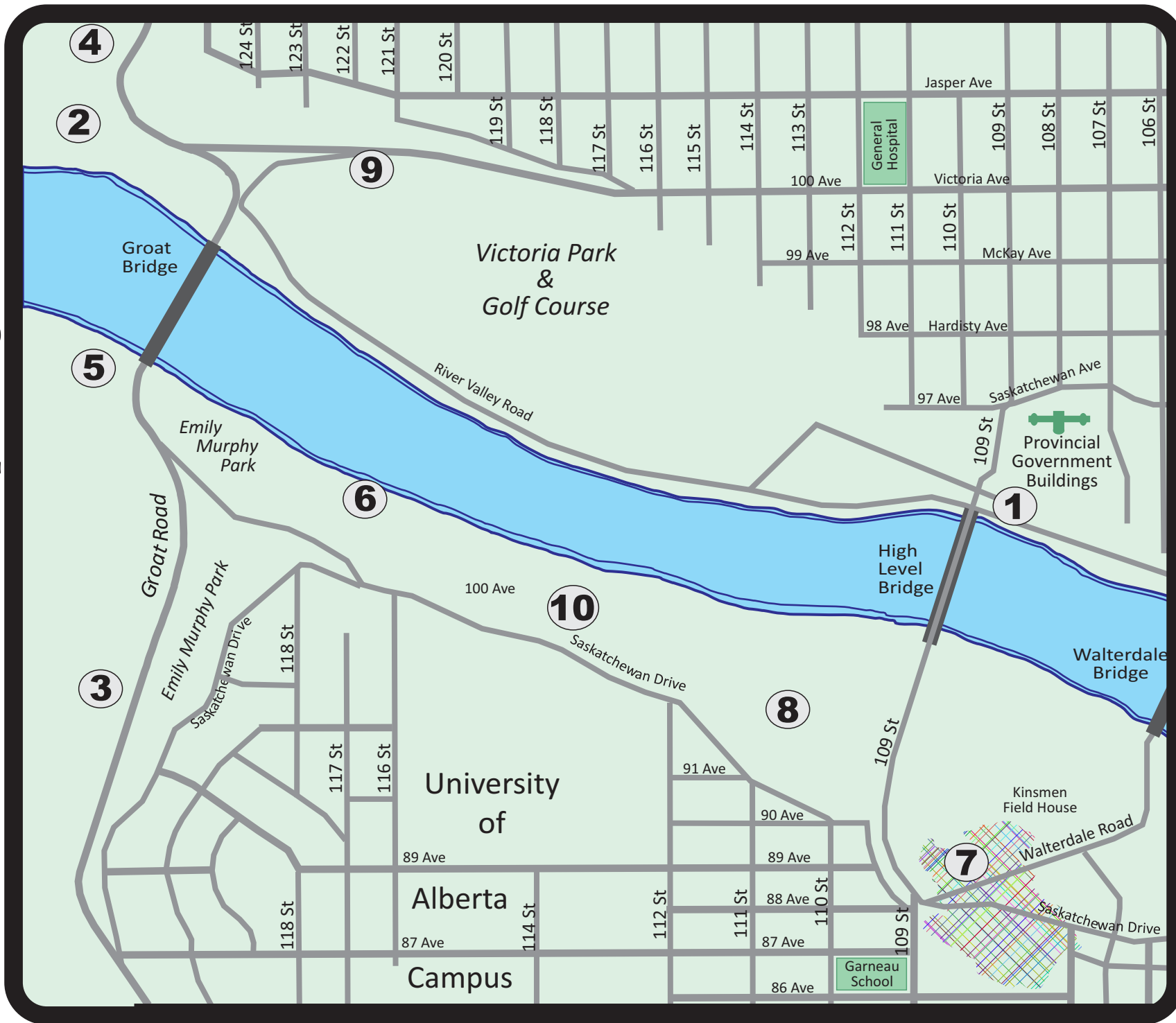
The **Lower Clover Bar coal seam** rises from 75 metres (246 feet) below the North Saskatchewan River west of Whitemud Creek, to the river's surface east of the Clover Bar Bridge.



adapted from: *Atlas: Coal Mine Workings of the Edmonton Area* 1971 by Richard Spence Taylor Ph.D

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10 Coal Mines in Edmonton operating - 1840s to 1920s



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