

ABOUT OIJÉ-BOUGOUMOU...

Oujé-Bougoumou mean «The place where people gather». Oujé-Bougoumou is located by the Opemiska Lake and near the town of Chapais and about 745 km from Montréal. Its a small new town of 750 people which is built in 1992, after nine relocations. The village «was designed and built in accordance with our vision of living in harmony with our environment and culture. This philosophy is apparent everywhere, from our innovative architecture, to the sustainable use of our resources» (<http://www.ouje.ca/>).

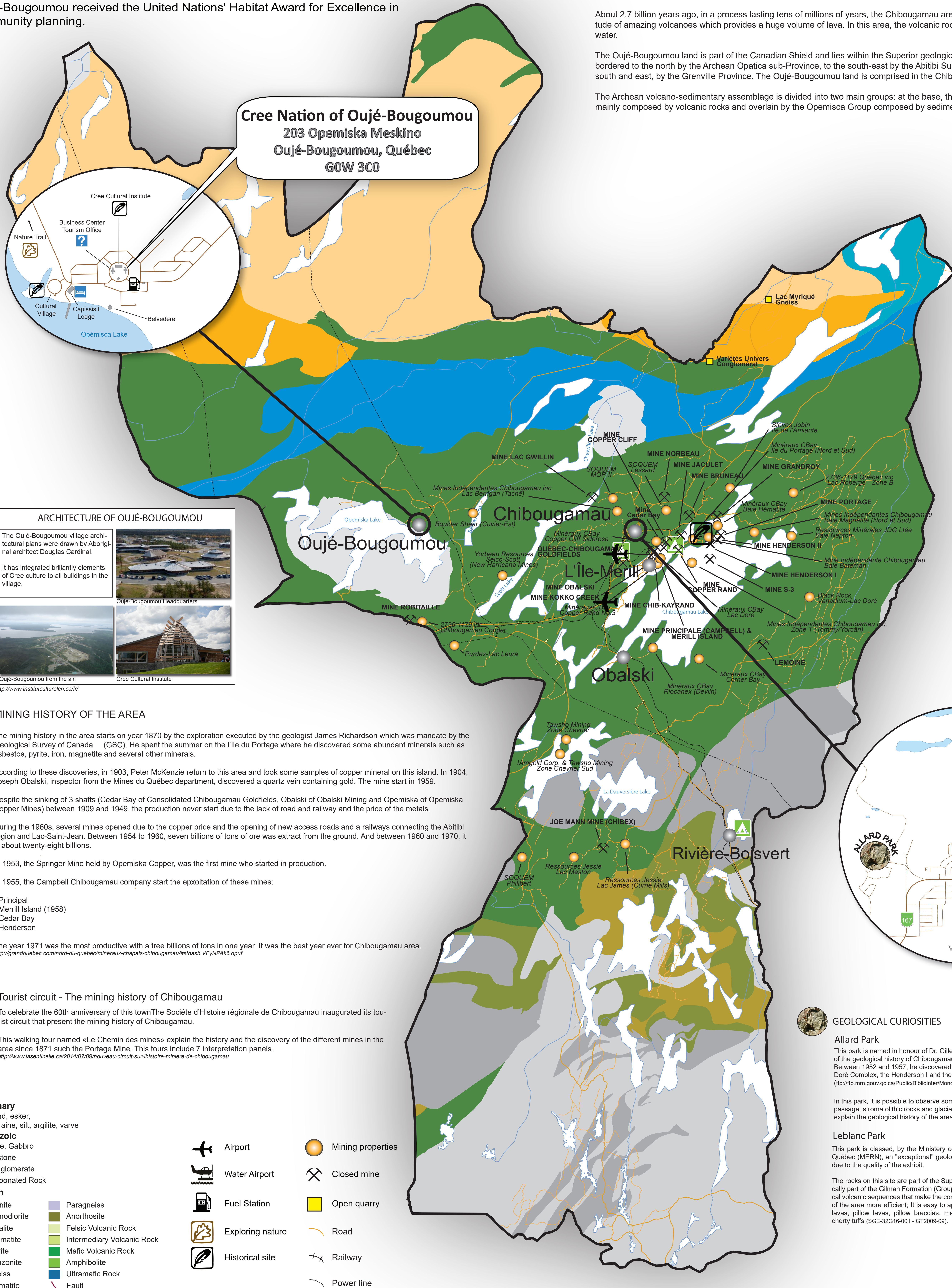
Ouje-Bougoumou received the United Nations' Habitat Award for Excellence in community planning.

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

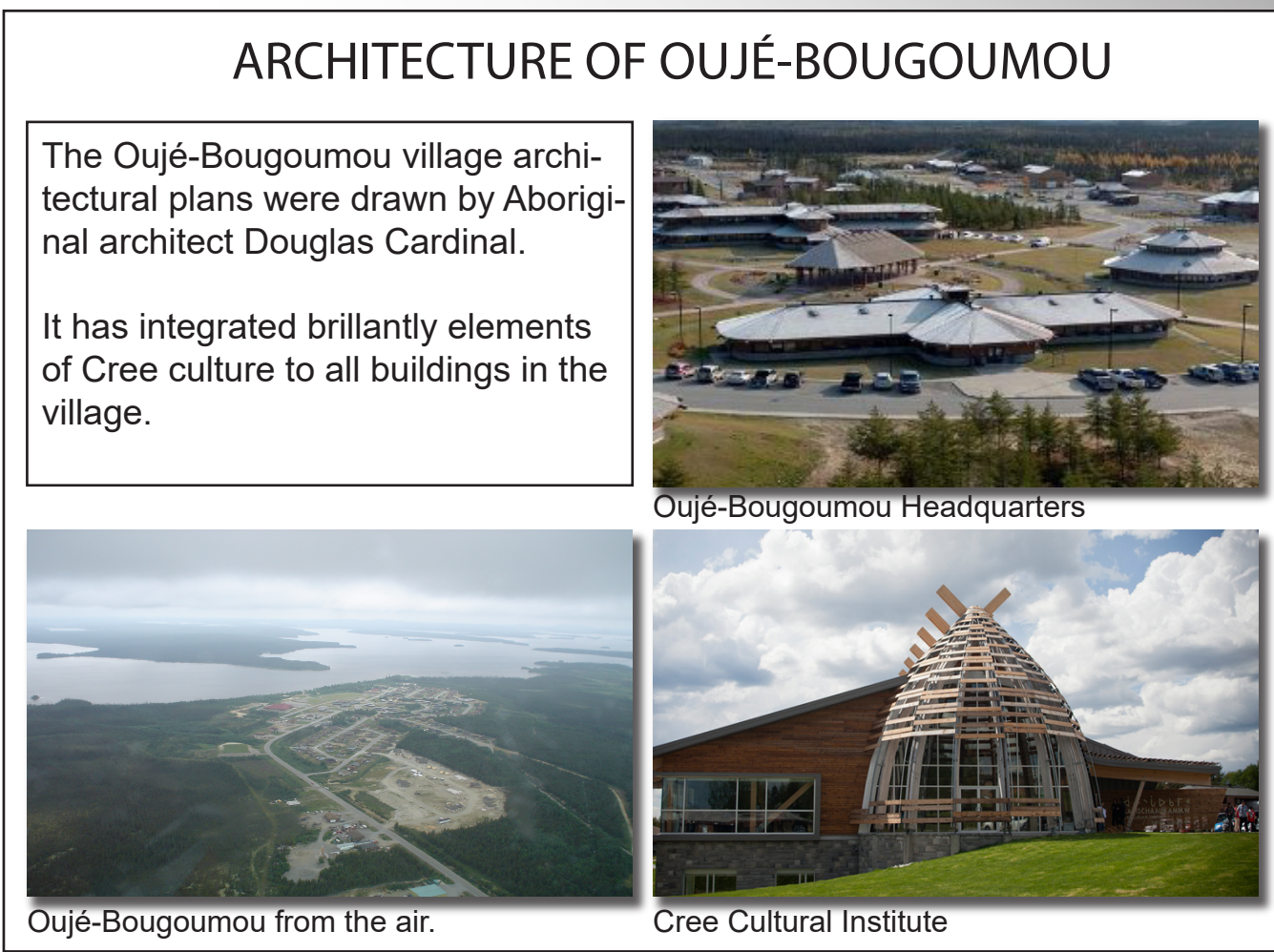
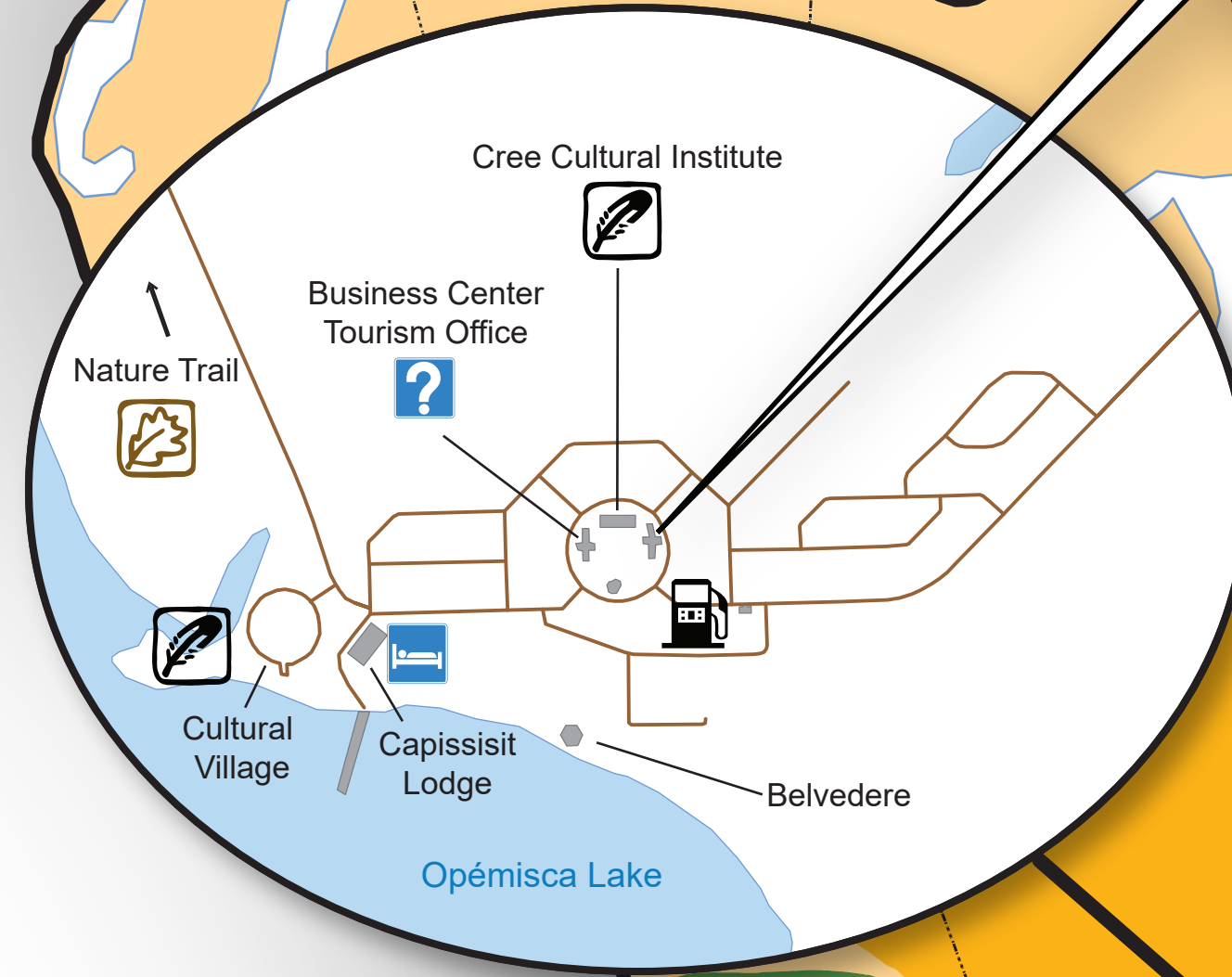
About 2.7 billion years ago, in a process lasting tens of millions of years, the Chibougamau area was underlain by a multitude of amazing volcanoes which provides a huge volume of lava. In this area, the volcanic rocks were formed under water.

The Oujé-Bougoumou land is part of the Canadian Shield and lies within the Superior geological Province. This land is bordered to the north by the Archean Opatica sub-Province, to the south-east by the Abitibi Sub-Province and, to the south and east, by the Grenville Province. The Oujé-Bougoumou land is comprised in the Chibougamau Mining District.

The Archean volcano-sedimentary assemblage is divided into two main groups: at the base, the Roy Group which is mainly composed by volcanic rocks and overlain by the Opemisca Group composed by sedimentary rocks.



Cree Nation of Oujé-Bougoumou
203 Opemiska Meskino
Oujé-Bougoumou, Québec
GOW 3C0



MINING HISTORY OF THE AREA

The mining history in the area starts on year 1870 by the exploration executed by the geologist James Richardson which was mandate by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). He spent the summer on the Île du Portage where he discovered some abundant minerals such as asbestos, pyrite, iron, magnetite and several other minerals.

According to these discoveries, in 1903, Peter McKenzie return to this area and took some samples of copper mineral on this island. In 1904, Joseph Obalski, inspector from the Mines du Québec department, discovered a quartz vein containing gold. The mine start in 1959.

Despite the sinking of 3 shafts (Cedar Bay of Consolidated Chibougamau Goldfields, Obalski of Obalski Mining and Opemiska of Opemiska Copper Mines) between 1909 and 1949, the production never start due to the lack of road and railway and the price of the metals.

During the 1960s, several mines opened due to the copper price and the opening of new access roads and a railways connecting the Abitibi region and Lac-Saint-Jean. Between 1954 to 1960, seven billions of tons of ore was extract from the ground. And between 1960 and 1970, it is about twenty-eight billions.

In 1953, the Springer Mine held by Opemiska Copper, was the first mine who started in production.

In 1955, the Campbell Chibougamau company start the exploitation of these mines:

- Principal
- Merrill Island (1958)
- Cedar Bay
- Henderson

The year 1971 was the most productive with a tree billions of tons in one year. It was the best year ever for Chibougamau area.

Tourist circuit - The mining history of Chibougamau

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of this town The Société d'histoire régionale de Chibougamau inaugurated its tourist circuit that present the mining history of Chibougamau.

This walking tour named «Le Chemin des mines» explain the history and the discovery of the different mines in the area since 1871 such the Portage Mine. This tours include 7 interpretation panels.

<http://www.iasentinelles.ca/2014/07/09/nouveau-circuit-sur-l-histoire-miniére-de-chibougamau>

Quaternary

- Sand, esker, moraine, silt, argillite, varve

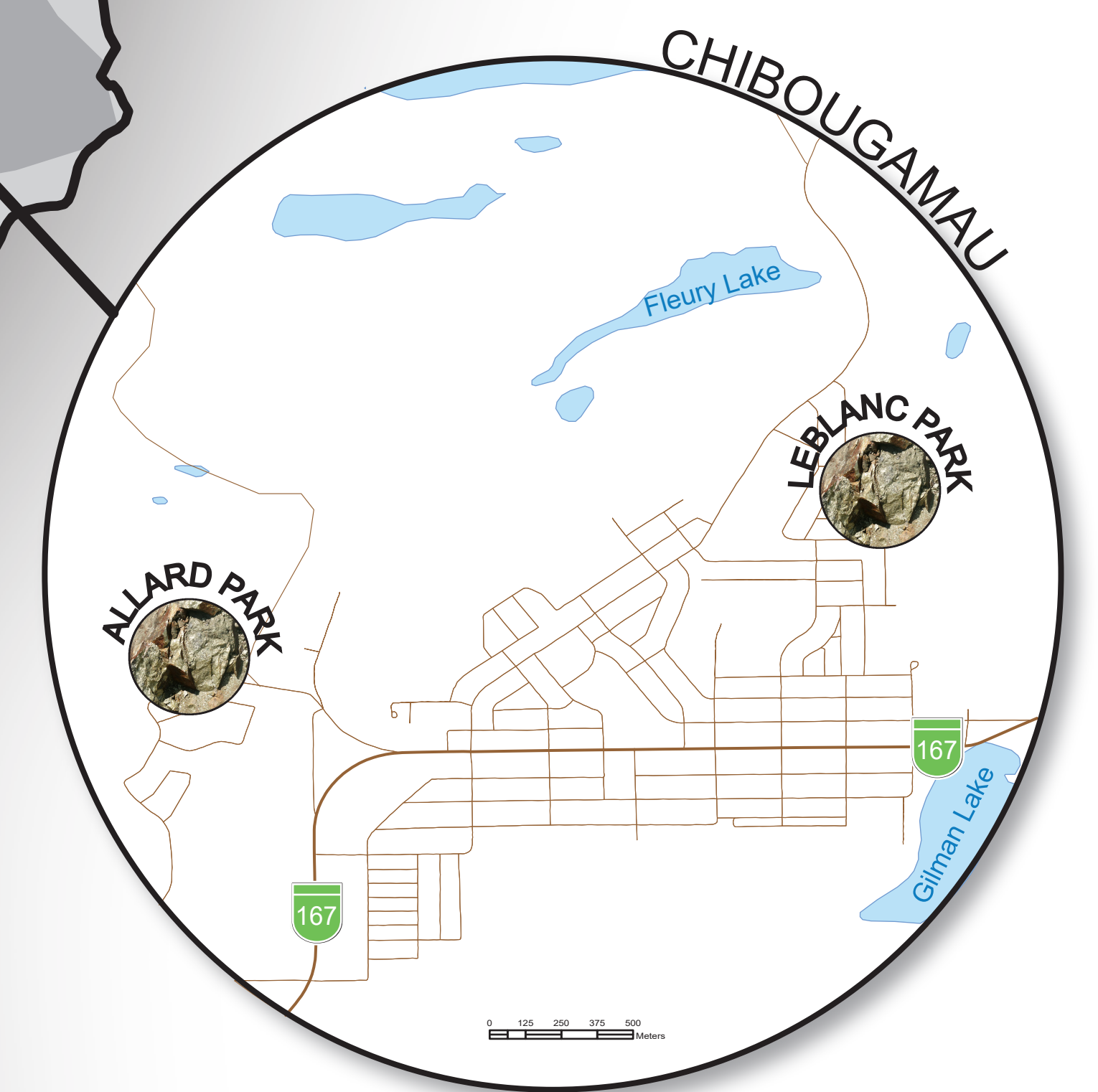
Proterozoic

- Dyke, Gabbro
- Siltstone
- Conglomerate
- Carbonated Rock

Archean

- Granite
- Granodiorite
- Tonalite
- Pegmatite
- Diorite
- Monzonite
- Gneiss
- Migmatite
- Paragneiss
- Anorthosite
- Felsic Volcanic Rock
- Intermediary Volcanic Rock
- Mafic Volcanic Rock
- Amphibolite
- Ultramafic Rock
- Fault

- Airport
- Water Airport
- Fuel Station
- Exploring nature
- Historical site
- Mining properties
- Closed mine
- Open quarry
- Road
- Railway
- Power line



GEOLOGICAL CURIOSITIES

Allard Park

This park is named in honour of Dr. Gilles O. Allard, Doctor in geology. As a pioneer of the geological history of Chibougamau, M. Allard makes several discoveries. Between 1952 and 1957, he discovered: the Siderite Hill mineralized zone, the Lac Doré Complex, the Henderson I and the Henderson II mines (<http://tp.mn.gouv.qc.ca/Public/Bibliointer/Mono2010/04/1022025.pdf> - GT2009-06).

In this park, it is possible to observe some erratic lava blocks eroded by the icefield passage, stromatolitic rocks and glacial striae. In the park, an explanatory board explain the geological history of the area.

Leblanc Park

This park is classed, by the Ministry of the Energie et Ressources naturelles du Québec (MERN), an "exceptional" geological heritage of the Nord-du-Québec area due to the quality of the exhibit.

The rocks on this site are part of the Superior geological province and more specifically part of the Gilman Formation (Groupe de Roy). It is possible to observe a vertical volcanic sequences that make the comprehension of the geological development of the area more efficient; It is easy to appreciate some primary structures like flow lavas, pillow lavas, pillow breccias, massive flows, volcanic conglomerates and cherty tuffs (SGE-32G16-001 - GT2009-09).