Murdochville QC
Murdochville QC

- An inland former copper-mining town in Gaspe peninsula.
- Population 650
- Copper discovered 1921, Noranda starts mining 1950
- Murdochville (Named after a Noranda boss) incorporated 1953.
1938
Murdochville

• 1957 Murdochville strike changed Quebec labour law
• Noranda forced to recognize the union
• An obscure lawyer, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, came out in support of the strikers.
Murdochville

• Population peaks 1974 at 5,000
• Mine, smelter active
Murdochville

• Bad mine fire 1987, closed mine until 1989
• Mine closes 1999, Smelter in 2002
• Majority vote to close the town 2002
Murdochville

• Town shrinks, secures wind turbines, some tourism
  • Ski hills, winter tourism
Murdochville

• Major effort to create mine tours, tourism
• Mine visitor centre burns down 2012 with loss of most of artifacts
Visitor’s Center after 2012 fire
Murdochville

• Mine visitor centre rebuilt
• Double fatality in 2016 closes mine tours and visitor centre
Closed mine museum
Closed mine access
Wind turbine blade
Mine Site
Murdochville

• Major decommissioning of the mine and smelter site
• Removes most of the buildings, but leaves most of the devastation behind, for now
Murdochville

• Mining allowed the town to boom, briefly
• Faced abandonment after 50 years, leaving devastated environment
• Most of the people left
• Slow, partial environmental remediation
• Future as a gritty second-rate ski resort and wind farm?