

# On the Side of the Road

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## Gitennes Exploration Inc. Finds Promising Surface Showing Beside the Coquihalla Highway

By Robert Simpson

When Mike Moore showed Jerry Blackwell, president of Gitennes Exploration Inc., rock samples collected from a road cut along the Coquihalla Highway he couldn't believe his eyes. In fact, it wasn't until he visited the site and saw the showing that Blackwell was fully convinced.

What Moore had uncovered was a surface showing hosting based metal mineralization grading 19.75 % zinc, 1.58 % copper, 0.52 % lead, 91.8 grams per tonne silver and 0.54 g/t gold. "In this province, as a surface showing, this is the best I have seen in a long time. It is unusual to see high-grade mineralization at the surface, and what we have seen so far is very exciting," says Blackwell.

Mike Moore,  
prospector-geologist with Gitennes

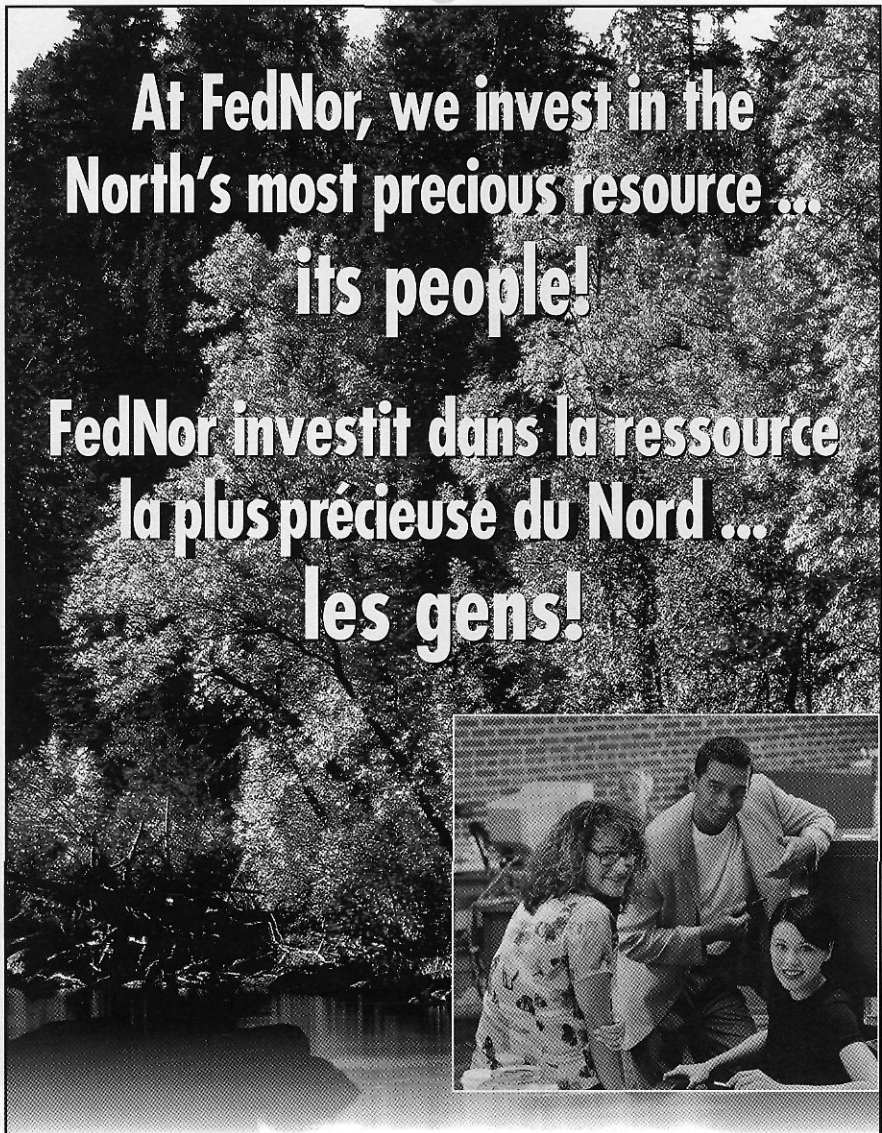
The property, located 27 kilometres north of Merritt, British Columbia, encompasses a showing of what appears to be a polymetallic massive sulphide mineralization hosted by intermediate to felsic volcanic rocks. The showing is partially exposed in a road-cut, being largely covered by surface debris. It has been traced in outcrop, bedrock rubble and float over a cross-sectional area 100-metres long that is from two metres to four metres thick.

"We don't know why this showing was never noted before, but the theory runs that when the highway connector was built they stabilized the hillside by top dressing the area with crushed rock and soil, then seeded it to grass. Over the years as this area weathered, it started to release heat from the sulfides which brought colour up along the hillside as the soil turned over," says Blackwell.

Mike Moore had a hunch. He began prospecting the area for copper several years ago and pegged claims over the area. He optioned the claims, but the ensuing drill programme was not successful and the claims were eventually allowed to lapse. He returned this past summer when the promise of higher copper prices and the discoveries at the Afton Mine renewed interest in the area. In July he discovered the zinc-rich outcrop.

"When Mike began showing these samples to companies he was selling it as a porphyry copper opportunity. I confess that when I first saw the high grade zinc samples, the mineralization was not that obvious because it is somewhat fine grained and did not have the characteristically rich brown colour of sphalerite. So Mike went back to the area to gather more samples. Then one day he called and said 'You have to get up here'," says Blackwell.

Encouraged by the showing, Giteannes Exploration consolidated its land position and staked nearly 70 square kilometres in the area. A deal was struck with Moore on October 15th, 2000 for \$370,000 over four years, plus 200,000 shares and 1¼% NSR.



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Since October 17th, 2000, Gitennes Exploration has completed a considerable amount of work on the property. Over a five-week period a five-man team has mapped the area, collected silt and soil samples for MMI and conventional, multi-element analysis. As well, nearly 475 line kilometres of airborne electromagnetic and magnetic surveying has been completed. Test lines of IP have been done, with full-sized grid survey scheduled to be done by the end of the year.

So far all indications are the zone is a polymetallic volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) target, hosted by intermediate to felsic volcanic rock. Evidence includes classic signs for this type of stratsbound deposit: a felsic footwall rock and mafic hanging wall rock – each classic boundary

conditions. The mineral associations include quartz-sericite schist, pyrite-sphalerite-chert rock, and barite-sphalerite-cemented felsic breccia. Associated minerals include chalcopyrite, galena and tetrahedrite. Throughout the length of the zone, scattered higher-grade boulders of dense massive sulphide rock occur, but have yet to be found in outcrop.

“If this is a VMS it will be the first style of this mineralization noted in the Triassic Nicola Group volcanic rock units,” says Blackwell.

The showing is just over 100 metres long and two to four metres thick where exposed. “We do not see the base of the mineralization but think the zone could be wider,” says Blackwell.

**The grab sample results from mineralized outcrops are:**

Sample	Zinc	Copper	Lead	Silver	Gold
15284	19.75%	1.58%	0.52%	91.8 g/t	0.54 g/t
15286	17.25%	1.39%	0.71%	45.9 g/t	0.70 g/t
15289	5.62%	6,200ppm	142ppm	31.8ppm	435ppm
15290	10.40%	0.38%	0.04%	62.1 g/t	0.66 g/t

**Two boulders were submitted for assay:**


R1	33.26%	3.22%	0.86%	144.7 g/t	1.06 g/t
R2	29.76%	2.32%	0.78%	72.7 g/t	0.70 g/t

*Geological Work on the site, located alongside the Coquihalla Highway*



The property is located alongside a major highway but presents no immediate problems," says Blackwell. "If the discovery is good enough we'll move the highway. But at a million dollars a kilometer, it certainly has to be a very good discovery."

So far it is all good news for Gitennes Exploration. In addition, the property is located in an area where mining is a known commodity and which has good infrastructure—access to the property is by major highway and an extensive network of logging roads. Two power transmission lines cross the property, one of which goes to the Highland Valley Mine. A number of producing and closed copper mines are also found within a 45-minute drive of the property, including Highland Valley, Craigmont and Afton.

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"I think this is a good project for the kind of times we are in. There are better metal prices and more exploration funds are becoming available. This isn't a remote discovery; it is one we can easily develop if we get to the critical mass," says Blackwell.

This project is Gitennes Exploration's first in British Columbia. "It will be a very visible project and we expect to have our share of visitors, some which we may wish did not show up. We are, however, going into

**"I think this is a good project for the kind of times we are in."**

this with our eyes wide open. So it's an understatement to say the showing caught my attention. It was the amount of material present at the showing, clearly indicated the target could be 12 percent zinc or higher, that sold me on the project," says Blackwell.

"It is such an opportunity to be starting with a good grade and working towards understanding the rocks rather than the more typical approach of working up a good story on the rocks and then trying to generate a target and get the money to drill. We are basically catching up to a very good showing," says Blackwell.

The plan for Gitennes Exploration is to complete the ground geophysics and have the results of the geochemical analysis completed by the end of 2000. A drill program is slated for completion before the spring of 2001.

With C\$600,000 in the treasury, Gitennes is in good shape to finance the drill program. "If additional funds are necessary we may consider a flow through issue if it won't cost the current shareholders too much equity. In other words we don't want to get held up in the market for financing. It's just a question of seeing a good financing opportunity. We're actively discussing this on a non-brokered basis and I'd like to think we'll find some good, friendly financiers," says Blackwell.

There is a buzz in the Gitennes Exploration offices, something akin to the '70s when mining in British Columbia was at its peak. There is good reason for the enthusiasm. As more and more companies face uncertainty about offshore investments and the cost of capital continues to climb, opportunities in British Columbia are again gaining attention.

"It's a pleasure to be working at home but that doesn't mean we are coming here with our eyes closed. We know what the political environment is like and we are holding our breath to see what things might be thrown in our path over time. So far the response, and the help from all levels, has been wonderful. We think the people and the province need this project to be a success as much as we do," says Blackwell. ■



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