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Telling you things everyone else doesn't already know.

Ahead of the Herd Newsletter - 2018 Issue One

Saturday, February 3rd

aheadoftheherd.com

As a general rule, the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to announce our Ahead of the Herd (AOTH) newsletter is now a weekly publication and, when used in conjunction with our new [investor forums](#), will keep you in touch and up to date with news and developments in the universe of stocks to which we provide coverage.

Our newsletter and forums are focused on keeping you, Ahead of the Herd's subscribers, up to date on important happenings, developments and ideas concerning our selected investments.

The idea is to share with subscribers what we're buying and why, and when we're selling and why.

The AOTH portfolio has its own forum and is kept up to date with entry prices and risk management moves. Every company we cover has its own forum, full of not only company news but articles concerning specific sector news as well. The forums are an extremely useful tool for all of us, we do a weekly newsletter, and we will send out special alerts in between letters but the forums let us keep in contact on an hourly basis and iron does sharpen iron, it is good to share thoughts and concerns.

Newsletter issued every Saturday, excepting holidays. Frequency reduced Christmas/New Year holiday and in July and August.

Private Placement Financings (coming soon)

Quite often we are able to secure room in private placements for our subscribers. Our AOTH private placement forum offers subscribers to our newsletter the opportunity to participate in what we consider high quality financings, these private placements are ones that we plan to invest in.

Accredited investors, or existing company shareholders who wish to participate through our sites broker are guaranteed at least some allocation.

Trades

While we are, for the most part, get in early and hold while events play out style investors, trading stocks is part of risk management. It's a way to increase your core position or cut ownership costs. All trades are shown in real time - buys and sells are posted in our investor forums before we do them.

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This week's newsletter has two feature articles.

The first article is titled '**The World's Garbage.**' The first link in the article is a must read, they are all good reads, but this one is special.

In August 2017 China told the World Trade Organization (WTO) that by the end of the year it will no longer accept 24 categories of solid waste as part of a government campaign against "foreign garbage." This is an extremely big deal because the ban is creating a huge problem for countries that produce an excess of recycled waste they need to get rid of.

I think aheadoftheherd.com can point them in the direction of a solution.

Our second article is '**1 2 3, Aben Is a Three Trick Pony Ride.**'

It's common for a junior gold company to have just one strong property worthy of raising funds for an exploration program, we call these 'a one trick pony.' Unfortunately miss on the one project and the junior goes to sleep while investors flee. Having three properties that can all be considered stand-alone projects of which any two could have easily been spun out into separate companies is rare.

Aben's Chico Gold Project in northern Saskatchewan is a February drill ready gold play. Many discoveries, all deserving follow up work have been made on ABN's British Columbia's Golden Triangle Forest Kerr Project. The company's Justin Project, a classic intrusion-related gold system, despite not being ABN's primary or even secondary focus of exploration effort already has two exciting discoveries with the potential for more.

Aben is a true three trick pony for us investors to ride.

Rick Mills
Ahead of the Herd



The World's Garbage

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In 1987 former late night talk show host Johnny Carson launched into a monologue about [a garbage barge that left New York](#) (a great read – Rick) and was towed along the coast for months as far as Belize. The 3,100-ton floating mound of trash was finally incinerated and buried in the same landfill it would have gone to had it never left New York, having been unable to find anyone who would take it.



Thirty years later, China came to the same conclusion by banning imported garbage from the rest of the world, which for years has used the country as

a dumping ground for waste including recyclable plastics, scrap metal and paper.

Why China is refusing our garbage

In August 2017 China told the World Trade Organization (WTO) that by the end of the year it will no longer accept 24 categories of solid waste as part of a government campaign against "foreign garbage," [The Economist reported](#).

Like other commodities, China is a major market for exporters of recycled goods. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), China accounts for over half of the world's total imports of recovered paper and fiber, plastic scrap, and copper scrap. In 2016 China imported 45 million tonnes of scrap metal, waste and plastic worth about US\$18 billion. The trade in recyclables paid off handsomely for foreign scrap dealers, while Chinese firms benefited from a steady supply of recycled materials that were broken down and remade into other products, often cheaper than using regular inputs. Recycled steel for example uses 60% less energy than steel produced from iron ore.

The biggest source of plastic waste was Hong Kong, followed by Japan and the United States, which accounted for around 10% each of the volumes. The same two countries also sent the most amount of scrap paper to China.

The downside of this trade is that recycled goods are often dirty, poorly sorted or contaminated with hazardous materials. The Economist notes the Chinese government began facing public pressure following a documentary showing workers dismantling discarded electronic devices and dumping the toxic remains into a river. The film "[Plastic China](#)" exposed the environmental damage caused by the country's plastic-recycling industry, which is dominated by thousands of small-scale outfits that often lack proper pollution controls.

"We found that large amounts of dirty wastes or even hazardous wastes are mixed in the solid waste that can be used as raw materials. This polluted China's environment seriously," [China's WTO filing said](#).

Government officials say the new ban on foreign garbage will improve the environment and protect public health.

Where will it go?

But the ban is creating a huge problem for countries that produce an excess of recycled waste they need to get rid of. Britain for example sends half a million tonnes of plastics for recycling in China every year. Now that the trade has stopped, inventories are piling up. Canada, Ireland, Germany and other European nations are all facing expanding, multiplying garbage heaps, leading exporters to wonder what they will do with the surpluses.

For consumers, the result of the Chinese ban will likely mean increased prices of goods made from recycled materials - until alternative low-cost recycling processing sources can be found to replace China. Possibilities are poorer, developing countries like Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

"It's a huge blow for us... a game-changer for our industry," Simon Ellin, chief executive of the UK Recycling Association, [told the BBC](#). "We've relied on China so long for our waste... 55% of paper, 25% plus of plastics."

The Chinese ban has prompted action on the part of some politicians. UK Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to eliminate avoidable wastes within 25 years, including getting supermarkets to lessen food packaging. [The Guardian reports](#) that Britain's leading supermarkets create over 800,000 tonnes of plastic packaging every year. Montreal and Victoria are among Canadian cities that have banned plastic bags. Other Canadian municipalities are scrambling to find places to send their waste. [CBC reported](#) Alberta cities have been shipping thousands of tonnes of plastic grocery bags and cardboard each year to China, but are now looking to other foreign markets to buy their unsorted recyclables.

Too much garbage

The problem, of course, goes deeper than just a question of how to recalibrate the supply and demand for recycled goods. Our increasingly throw-away, consumer-oriented society simply generates too much garbage on a daily basis with not enough landfill space to fill it with. Incineration is another option, but it too exacts a price on the environment in terms of air pollution.

According to a [2012 World Bank report](#), the amount of solid waste generated globally was on pace to rise by over 3.5 million tonnes a day in 2010 to 6 million tonnes by 2025. The reports says the waste from cities alone is enough to fill a line of garbage trucks 5,000 kilometers long every single day.

A few days ago [Eurostat produced a graphic](#) of how much plastic waste European Union citizens produce each year - 31 kilograms on average. The worst culprits were the Irish, throwing out 61 kg each, while Bulgarians were the greenest Europeans, disposing of just 19 kg per person.

Brushing off any sanctimony on this side of the pond, North Americans are equally prolific garbage producers. [The OECD tracked](#) 30 countries to see how much municipal solid waste (MSW) they produce. It found Canada came last in a list of 17 "peer countries" re kilograms of MSW generated per person. The US was 15th.

The average North American will throw away 600 times his or her weight in garbage, meaning a 150-pound adult will heave 90,000 pounds of trash into the dumpster from birth to death.

Sea of plastic

Most people by now have heard of the Great Pacific garbage patch, aka the Pacific trash vortex. The gyre of floating marine debris is estimated at anywhere between 700,000 square kilometers, about the size of Texas, to over 15 million kilometers squared. First noticed by a sailor completing a yacht race in 1997, the Pacific trash vortex is both emblematic of our careless, materialistic society, and a serious hazard to marine and aquatic life. As the plastic decomposes it is ingested by marine animals, fish and sea birds.

Scientists cite plastic as one of the biggest threats to coral reefs after global warming, [according to National Geographic](#). The long-running nature magazine says over 11 billion pieces of plastic have been found on a third of coral reefs in the Asia Pacific - a figure that is expected to grow to 15 billion by 2025. The plastic bags, bottles and rice sacks found on the reefs raises the risk of disease outbreaks on coral reefs by 20 times, putting over 275 million people who rely on them for food and tourism income in jeopardy.

Plastic takes over 400 years to degrade, meaning most of it still exists, and only 12% has been incinerated. About 91% of plastic is not recycled. National Geographic says the problem of discarded plastic is so severe, scientists predict that if nothing is done, by 2050 the oceans will contain more plastic than fish, ton for ton.

No help from Big Oil

Reducing plastic usage is complicated, and challenging, considering its use is so ubiquitous in packaging and consumer buying habits. More than that, though, the plastic industry is tied to Big Oil. Plastic of course is made from petroleum, and despite the recent downturn, the oil industry shows no signs of letting up. When oil prices dropped in 2014 it actually [became less expensive to produce a plastic bottle](#) than to recycle it. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the petrochemical industry will represent the largest source of additional oil consumption through 2040 - with the manufacturing of petrochemicals like plastics adding 6.2 million barrels a day of oil demand.

The oil industry obviously does not want to see recycling increase, because it would mean less demand for plastic. [States Oilprice.com](#):

The IEA sees more potential in the less-sexy practice of recycling and efficiency. For instance, if recycling increases from 15 percent to 33 percent, and if end use plastic consumption were reduced by five percent through 'light-weighting' (reducing the weight of products, and thus using less plastic), it could eliminate roughly 1.5 mb/d of oil demand by 2040. Bloomberg Intelligence estimates that it takes 8.5 barrels of oil to manufacture 160,000 plastic bags.

Turning trash into cash

It's estimated that globally, solid-waste generation will triple to 11 million tons a day by the end of this century – in spite of the fact that we are running out of landfill space, especially in land-constrained places like Japan and Europe.

The need to do away with dumps has over the years spawned new technologies to deal with garbage, among them incineration, anaerobic digestion and waste to energy solutions that capture and convert landfill gases – mostly methane and CO₂ – into alternative fuels that can be used for electricity.

A recent study from the Worldwatch Institute states that much of the growth in municipal solid waste is happening in developing countries where people are moving out of rural areas and into cities, consuming more, and producing more garbage. Top MSW generators include Mexico, Brazil, China and India.

China, the most obvious example of a country that has urbanized rapidly, is trying to address the problem through a partnership between Texas-based

Waste Management and a Chinese company to provide waste to energy services throughout China, [reported GreenBiz](#).

Another approach is to tackle the plastic waste scourge head-on. This week the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland was presented with a [list of five innovations in materials science](#) that could be part of the solution.

Among the contenders is a Spanish company that adds re-usable magnets to packaging that function like airtight coatings such as those used in toothpaste.

There are also technologies to change cellulose materials into biofuels which, helped along with government subsidies – reduce the amount of fossil fuels that go into vehicle engines, thereby reducing tailpipe emissions.

Conclusion

The problem of the world's garbage is tough to get a handle on. As the Earth's population continues to grow, and the trend of urbanization moves more and more people into cities, the result is a forever-increasing pool of consumers, which add to the mountain of garbage we cannot seem to reduce. However, the spark of human innovation is a wonderful thing, and we should not lose sight of the opportunities that new technologies and knowledge could provide - not only in solving the problem, but creating new and exciting businesses.

While the proliferation of garbage and especially plastic concerns me, I am also hopeful that solutions will be found. I'm on the lookout for [investment opportunities](#) that can put us on the path to a cleaner, healthier planet. Are you?

If not, maybe it should be.

Richard (Rick) Mills
aheadoftheherd.com

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Richard Mills owns shares of Cielo Waste Systems (CSE:CMC) and CMC is a sponsor of aheadoftheherd.com.



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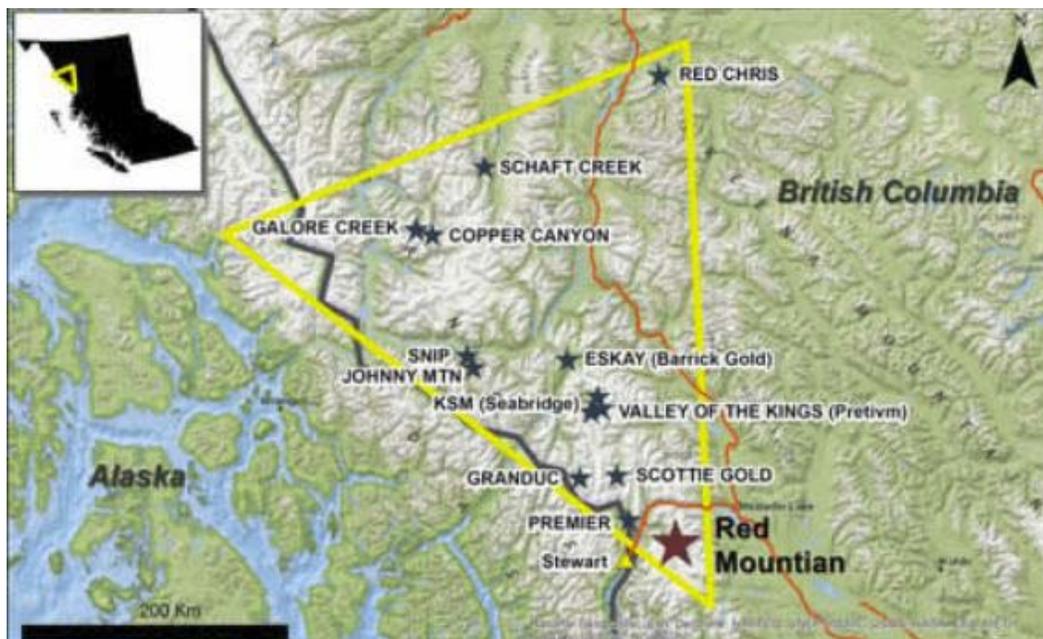
Telling you things everyone else doesn't already know.

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One of the most interesting area plays to excite the junior mining market these days is the [Golden Triangle of northwest British Columbia](#). With a rich gold mining history that spans 100 years, the Golden Triangle, just inland from the Alaska panhandle, has been the site of three gold rushes and some of Canada's greatest mines, including Premier, Snip and Eskay Creek. Other significant and well known deposits located within the Triangle include Brucejack, Galore Creek, Copper Canyon, Schaft Creek, KSM, Granduc, and Red Chris.



British Columbia's "Golden Triangle," mining.com

Premier Gold Mine, which started operations at Premier in 1918, returned a whopping 200% on the stock market between 1921 and 1923. The Snip Gold Mine produced a million ounces in the 1990s at an eye-watering average grade of 27.5 grams per tonne (g/t), and Eskay Creek was Canada's highest grade gold mine and the world's fifth largest silver producer, with production well over 3 million ounces of gold and 160 million ounces of silver.

But after this amazing rush of discoveries the Golden Triangle, at least news and investor interest wise, seemed to go dormant; isolated from major infrastructure, the area was expensive to conduct sampling, surveys and drill programs, and due to its harsh winter climate, only accessible for half a year.

Lately, however, there has been a resurgence of interest in the Golden Triangle, with something of a staking rush going on there as juniors position themselves for the next discovery hole. The excitement is being driven mostly by new road and power infrastructure built by the BC government, and the opening of Pretium's Brucejack mine last July. With 14.1 g/t gold in reserves, Brucejack, an underground gold and silver mine, was considered the highest-grade new mine in 2016 according to a [survey by Infomine](#).

Area play

Area plays, where one company makes a discovery then dozens of other companies rush in to stake all around them, are one of the very foundations of our junior markets. Some noteworthy area plays are Hemlo in 1982, Eskay Creek in 1990, Lac de Gras in 1992, Voisey's Bay in 1995 and the Yukon's White gold rush in 2010.

I alerted my readers to the developing gold rush in Canada's Yukon Territory and said, in my opinion buying Underworld, Atac and Kaminak over the winter of 2010 and holding till fall 2010 drill results should work out very well.

Kinross bought out Underworld Resources (TSX.V:UW) in March 2010 (the transaction valued the fully-diluted share capital of Underworld at C\$139.2 million). ATAC Resources Ltd. (TSX.V:ATC) went from a dollar a share in January to over \$8. Kaminak Gold Corp. (TSX.V:KAM) entered into a buyout agreement with Goldcorp Inc. (TSX.G) for \$520,000,000 in May of 2016.

Given very legitimate, and increasing daily concerns about increasing country risk, China's growing aggression, a simmering middle east, a nuclear ICBM armed North Korea seemingly itching for a confrontation, two nuclear

armed bitter enemies, India and Pakistan, duking it out over the Kashmir, the far right in the U.S. and Europe fanning racial tensions, Brexit, China versus India battles over borders/water and sustained negative real interest rates makes this an extremely timely article about what is going to be a truly exciting, result orientated news generating gold area play.

Canada's Province of British Columbia is one of the most geologically prospective mining jurisdictions in the world today. And all the elements needed to kick off a new area play are here:

- Spectacular new discoveries (and follow up discoveries by others) that are truly world class in grade and size.
- A discovery with a new geological twist or surprise.
- A jurisdiction with safe and reasonable tenure that's amenable to mineral exploration and development.

As the story of British Columbia's Golden Triangle unfolds I believe we can expect exciting times for those investors who get involved with the various companies participating in, what still are, the very early days of what is a developing area play.

Aben Resources

TSX-Venture Exchange:	ABN
US OTC Pink Symbol:	ABNAF
Frankfurt Exchange:	E2L2
Shares Outstanding:	62,698,776
Fully Diluted Shares:	93,734,665
Recent Share Price:	CDN \$0.16
Market Capitalization:	CDN \$10.0 million

Aben Resources (TSXV:ABN) is a Canadian junior resource company that has three separate projects on the go, including its Forrest Kerr in the Golden Triangle, located between the Snip and Eskey Creek mines and south of the

Schaft Creek mine. Recent discoveries by Colorado Resources (KSM) and GT Gold (Tatogga) are close by.

The other two development projects it has underway are the Chico Gold Project in Saskatchewan and the Justin Gold Project in the Yukon. Let's get started on ABN's Forest Kerr Project.

"It's been getting bigger and bigger each year," Aben CEO Jim Pettit told Ahead of the Herd in a recent interview, referring to the Golden Triangle area play. He said the difference between two years ago - when Aben acquired Forrest Kerr through option agreements on three properties, whereby ABN can earn 100% interest by spending \$3 million by June 2020 - and when they started drilling last year, was dramatic.

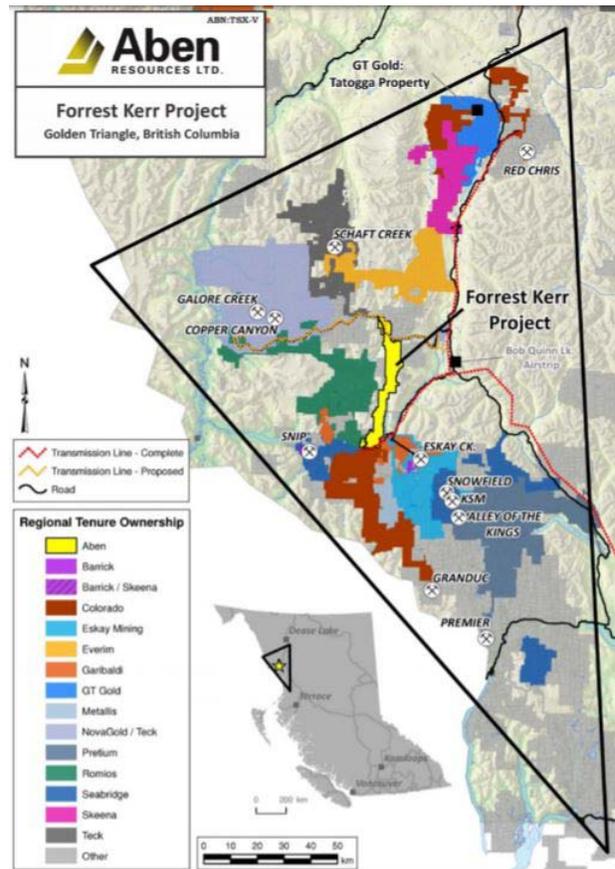
“Computer staking has allowed for almost all the land available to be staked. Companies were sending their people into the field for the first time to figure out what their ground has to offer for the next season of work,” said Pettit, who was chief executive of Bayfield Ventures in Ontario when it was taken out by New Gold in 2014.

Other notable members of the Aben management team include board chair Ron Netolitzky, who has been credited with discovering and putting the Eskay Creek, Snip and Brewery Creek mines into production; director and geologist Tim Termuende, who has explored around Forrest Kerr since the early 1990s; and VP Exploration Cornell McDowell, who helped take Gold Reach's Ootsa copper-gold project in BC from initial exploration to resource development, which ended with the delivery of a positive PEA.

Forrest Kerr

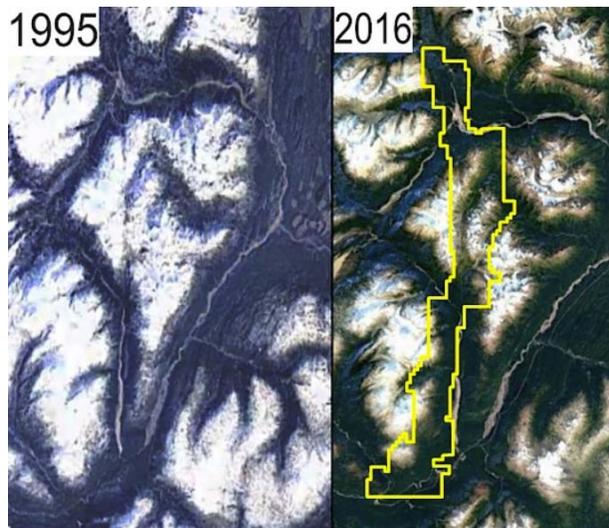
When Aben acquired the Forrest Kerr set of properties they came with a significant amount of exploration - 120 holes and about 20,000 soil samples. Highlights of historical drilling included the Carcass Creek hole which returned 9.87 g/t gold over 29 meters and the Forrest Creek hole with 2.28 g/t, 0.3% copper and 6.3 g/t silver over 28 meters. The most promising intersection was in the Boundary Zone hole which returned 33.4 g/t gold over 11 meters including 326 g/t gold over 0.45 meters.

However the high grades were not followed up on due to high drilling costs, limited accessibility, and glacier coverage in the Golden Triangle. Recent glacial recession and significant improvements to infrastructure - construction of the 335-km Northwest Transmission Line, a new three-dam hydroelectric facility (AltaGas' Forrest Kerr, the largest run-of-river project in the province and an engineering marvel), and the paving of the Stewart-Cassiar highway north from Hazelton - have lowered exploration costs and made the project more accessible. A 250-man camp, on the southern end of ABN's Forest Kerr



Project, owned by AltaGas serves as a base and staging ground for operations . The property is accessible by road and has an existing power line and hydroelectric facilities on the southern part of the property.

Aben was interested in the 23,000-hectare land package because of the Kerr



fault - a large structural feature that the company theorizes may be a significant gold source for Golden Triangle plays. The strategy is to search for splays that come off the main Kerr fault.

According to a recent [corporate presentation](#):

Aben's Forrest Kerr claim package encompasses in excess of 23,000 hectares which consists of a 40 km long north-south belt overlying rocks of the Hazelton and Stuhini Groups, a complex assemblage of volcanic

accumulations with intervening sedimentary sequences which are host to significant gold deposits in the Golden Triangle.

Pettit compares the Forrest Kerr geology they are exploring to Pretium's Brucejack, which is described by Pretium as "a deformed porphyry-related transitional to intermediate sulfidation Au-Ag epithermal deposit."

Former explorers around Forrest Kerr were looking for VMS-type deposits similar to the Eskey Creek mine, but the property is being looked at in a new way, said Pettit. Aben's technical team spent over a year analyzing and reinterpreting the historical data with the help of structural geologists to get a better understanding of the existing targets and high-grade gold mineralization at the project.

In 2017 Aben decided to begin exploring around the Boundary Zone, where the highest grades were found, and stepping out from there.

"We said let's take those results, do the fieldwork around it, give or take a few kilometers in either direction, find out what the geo-chem is telling us and see if there's an extension possible for these holes," said Pettit.

The results of a nine-hole drill campaign that started last summer were extremely positive for Aben. Continuous mineralization was identified in the first three holes of the North Boundary Zone. Highlights included 21.5 g/ t

gold, 28.5 g/t silver and 3.1% copper over 6 meters; 2.91 g/t gold, 5.2 g/t silver and 0.6% copper over 14 meters; and the North Boundary Zone mineralization remains open in multiple directions with numerous soil geochemical anomalies and geophysical targets yet to be drill-tested.

According to a [November 6, 2017 press release](#):

The high grade gold and silver mineralization encountered in the first three drill holes at North Boundary represent an exciting new target for further exploration. In addition, some of the most widespread and highly anomalous gold-in-soil anomalies remain untested over an area that extends in excess of 2 kilometers southward from the 2017 drill locations.

Adding to that, Pettit said “you’ve got very, very broad intersections in all three holes, at all three angles, with a very high-grade core in each one, so that’s beautiful.”

He said Aben anticipates doubling the 2017 drill program at Forrest Kerr this year, as the company chases more high-grade mineralization found in the new North Boundary zone in a southerly direction up to possibly 12 kilometers.

Area plays flourish because new discoveries rekindle faith in the rags-to-riches story our junior resource sector is built on. History has proven time and time again that junior exploration stocks can write a very exciting discovery story and reward investors with multiple returns on their capital.

With gold @ US\$1,341.00/Cdn\$1,647.00 (at the time of writing) the time line to get work initiated will increasingly become much more fast-paced. Exploration and assay results will pour in well into 2018 and beyond.

Industry observers, your author included, are extremely optimistic that additional gold deposits await discovery.

It is still very early days in BC’s Golden Triangle Area Play and the greatest rewards lie ahead of us. Outside the box geological modeling, massive exploration and drill programs generating news for years, selecting participating junior’s after careful due diligence and having the patience to let the story play out over the coming months should be on all our radar screens.

Chico

While less hyped than the Golden Triangle, an equally if not even more prospective, and much more advanced, being a drill ready gold play is Aben's Chico Gold Project in northern Saskatchewan.

By spending \$4.5 million in exploration by 2020, the company has the right to earn an 80% interest in the Chico property currently owned by Eagle Plains Resources.

Chico is located 125 kilometers from La Ronge, SK, and 40 km south of SSR Mining's Seabee/Santoy mine. The underground gold mine has been operating since 1991 and has so far produced 1.2 million ounces.

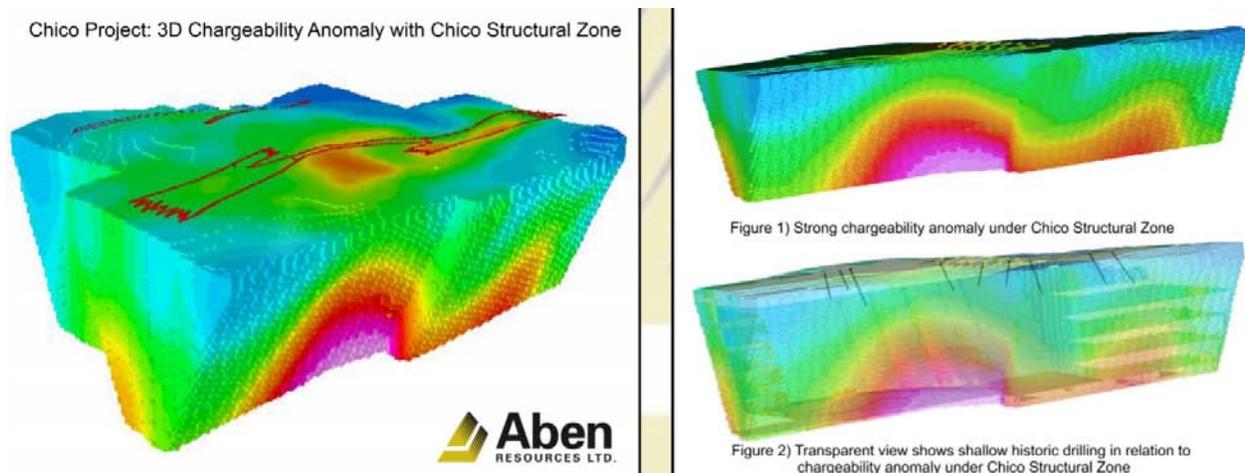
Silver Standard Resources (the predecessor to SSR Mining) acquired the mine in 2016 through its purchase of Claude Resources for \$337 million.

The interesting part about Chico is the amount of exploratory work already done on the 4,657-hectare property by Eagle Plains. Highlights include a 1.5-kilometre mineralized corridor which has been confirmed by geophysical surveys. Soil samples revealed up to 4.5 g/t gold, and rock samples collected in 2016 ranged from trace quantities to 20.2 g/t.

Trenching and drilling carried out by Corona Corporation and Cameco (before it became a uranium company) defined a 1,400m strike length, although drilling never went deeper than 110 meters. The chip samples though were impressive, with trenching by Corona returning five chip samples greater than 1,000 parts per billion (ppb) gold. Follow-up diamond drilling by Cameco returned five intercepts ranging from 0.51 g/t gold over 1.5 meter, to 36 g/t gold over 0.3m.

The main thrust of Eagle Plains' 2016 exploration program was to compare the mineralization at Chico to the nearby Santoy and Seabee deposits. It was the shared proximity to the Tabbernor fault - a 1,500-kilometer structure that runs from the northern Saskatchewan to South Dakota - that interested Eagle Plains and Aben in Chico.

"It's kind of like the Cadillac fault and Destor Porcupine faults [in Quebec's Abitibi Gold Belt]. They run northeast/west. This one runs north/south, from Rabbit Lake down to South Dakota, to the big [40-million ounce] Homestake Mine," said Pettit. "The rock we're seeing at surface hosts some gold-bearing quartz veins. They're everywhere. There are splays that come off the main Tabbenorr fault - chemical associations with copper, gold, silver, potassic, carbonate, hematite. It's got all the right alterations."



Indeed an intriguing question is whether the promising geochemical and sampling results taken at surface are connected to the IP geophysical survey which shows high chargeability up to about 200 meters below surface (higher chargeability often corresponds to the presence of sulfide minerals such as pyrite, pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite, which are commonly associated with gold mineralization).

The discovery horizon in the area is 200-250m. Historically drilling has been done only to 150m. The red dome in the photos is the massive geophysical anomaly rising to 200m below the surface. Normally I wouldn't get too excited about just geophysics but it's matched on top by geochem, surface sampling over a fairly large surface. When you have this kind of a massive 3d chargeability with surface mineralization, and it's scheduled to be drilled late February, I pay attention.

From the website:

Aben's Chico Gold Project, Saskatchewan 3D Chargeability
Video: <https://vimeo.com/250548099>

3D model depicts areas of higher chargeability in subsurface rocks through the use of warm colours (purple, red and yellow). Note large high chargeability root zone under middle of Chico Structural Zone (red lined area on surface) with yellow chutes extending to surface.

"We actually have two shear zone areas that are parallel and it's underneath the whole thing. It's gold-bearing, we know that because we've got all the old drill results. So where's it coming from? Probably straight below, that's what we think. So we're going to go find out," said Pettit.

Aben [announced on January 15](#) that permitting and planning is underway for a winter drill program at Chico expected to start in late February.

The 3,000-metre program comprising 25 locations will coincide with a 10,000-metre drill program being carried out by SSR on Eagle Plains' Fisher property located 6 kilometers north of Chico. The plan is to drill along strike and to depth near previous high-grade drill intercepts.

Justin

Prior to the option agreements at Forrest Kerr, Aben was working in the Yukon Territory, the site of an area play my readers are very familiar with, the White Gold District. The White Gold District lies within the Tintina Gold Belt (a 200-km-wide, 1,200-km long arc extending from northern British Columbia into southwest Alaska) and is underlain by rocks of the Yukon-Tanana geologic terrane.

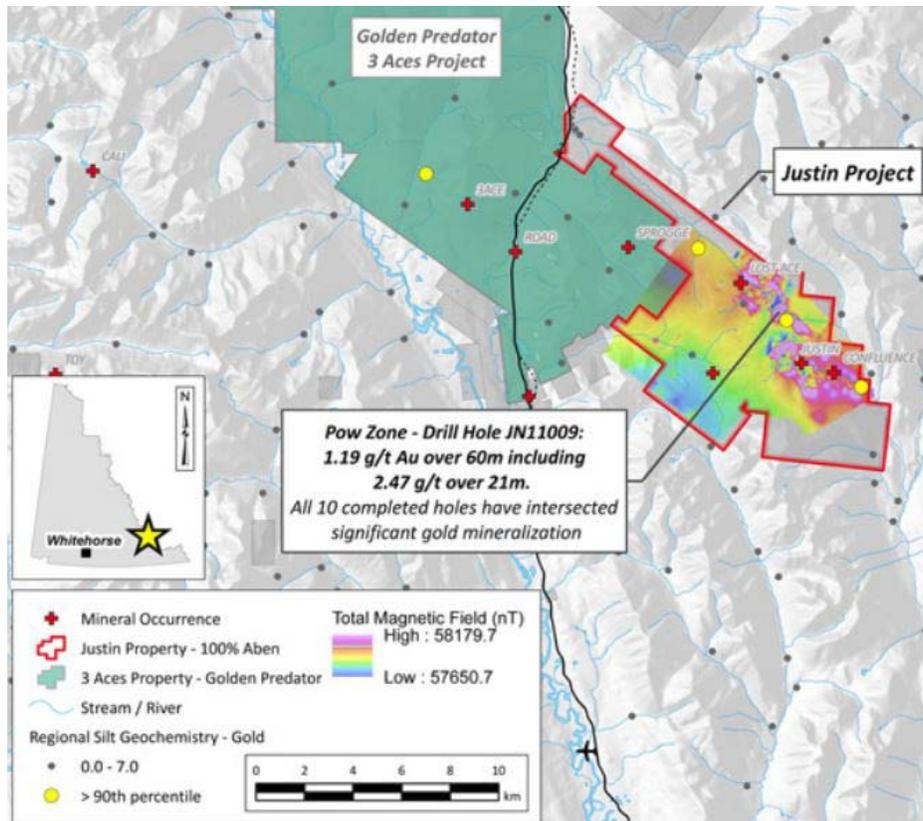
The Tintina Gold Belt includes such large gold deposits as Pogo (3.6 M ozs P & P reserves), Fort Knox (3.8 M ounces P & P reserves, 1.7 M ozs M & I resources), True North and Donlin Creek (29.3 M ozs Au Proven & Probable reserves, 6.0 M ozs Au Measured & Indicated resources).

Dawson City geologist Shawn Ryan dug deeper than earlier prospectors while soil sampling, and eventually struck pay dirt. Ryan sold his White Gold property to Underworld Resources, which on its fourth drill hole hit gold. As we know Underworld was later taken out by Kinross Gold.

In late 2009 early 2010 no one had yet defined a geological model for the White Gold occurrences because the geology of the Underworld discovery was different than other discoveries in the Tintina gold belt. This was extremely significant because it meant broad areas that had seen scant attention during past exploration efforts would now become the focus of intensive work programs that had a very real potential for success.

Around the same time, 2010, Aben Resources was picking up properties all over the Yukon. Aben and Eagle Plains optioned off all of them but hung onto one they figured was most prospective: Justin.

The 18,314-acre land package is contiguous to Golden Predator's 3 Aces project, which includes 6 mineralized areas that extend over a 35-kilometer gold trend.



“The Justin stuck out because while the guys were doing fieldwork, they literally tripped over the POW zone,” Pettit recalled. “It was exposed at surface, they took some samples, and boom, there’s gold in it. We said let’s go back and drill it. So from 2011, towards the end of that season, we drilled a few holes, and then more in 2012.”

Ten of 19 holes turned out to be mineralized. Significant drill results included 2.47 g/t over 21 meters within 60 meters of 1.19 g/t gold, and 46.4m of 1.49 g/t.

According to Aben, Justin has the potential for both high-grade and bulk tonnage mineralization - epithermal, skarn and sediment-hosted - throughout a 3.5 kilometer by half a kilometer trend encompassing the Confluence, Main, Kangas and POW zones.

“It’s a classic intrusion-related gold system. You’ve got this younger intrusion coming up into the area, and it’s a massive area. Generally, you would get bulk tonnage from those,” said Pettit, comparing it to Kinross’ 4.3 million-ounce Fort Knox operation in Alaska, Golden Predator’s Brewery Creek mine, and the Coffee gold deposit in the Yukon. The latter owned by Kaminak Gold was acquired by Goldcorp in 2016 for CAD\$520 million.

Last summer ABN discovered the Lost Ace Zone which is just west of the POW Zone. Assays from the 2017 trenching program returned encouraging results - TR17-004 returned 1.44 g/T Au over 5.00 m true thickness, including 2.11 g/T Au over 3.85 m true thickness and 4.77 g/T Au over 1.0 m. The gold-bearing vein system occurs in a geologic setting that is very similar to mineralization present on Golden Predators 3 Ace Project located immediately NW of the Justin claim group.

A 3.8 kg bulk soil sample collected for gold grain count analysis and classification from a location 115 meters upslope from the Lost Ace Zone returned a total of 1135 visible gold grains, that's highly anomalous. More important, of the 1135 gold grains recovered, 1049 gold grains were classified as pristine. Finding such a high percentage of pristine gold grains in your sample could suggest you are close to the lode source.

The Company plans follow-up exploration in 2018 to continue to build upon their recent Justin Project success.

Conclusion

It's common for a junior gold company to have one strong property worthy of raising funds for an exploration program, a one trick pony. Miss on the one project and the junior goes to sleep while investors flee. Having three properties that can all be considered stand-alone projects of which any two could have easily been spun out into separate companies is rare.

Remember this important fact – mines aren't found, they are built. Many times it takes years of exploration, many different programs run by very different geologists trying different models. A big part of Aben's appeal is that the company is working on properties with established data - giving it a leg up on explorers that are the first or second to go into an area and start poking holes in the ground. The Forrest Kerr and Chico properties have both been extensively explored. Aben has taken all that historical data and reinterpreted it, coming up with new theories and ways of getting at the mineralization they already know is there.

Chico is drill ready. Many discoveries, all deserving follow up work have been made on Forest Kerr. Justin, despite not being ABN's primary or even secondary focus of exploration effort already has two exciting discoveries with the potential for more.

As an investor, all of this gives me the confidence that Aben is chasing something real, three real projects that have to have more money spent on them to see what's there. Aben is a true three trick pony for us investors to

ride. Working three projects means a lot of news over the rest of the year, which means a lot of eyes on the stock. For that reason, I have [Aben Resources](#) on my radar screen. Is ABN on yours?

If not, maybe it should be.

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Richard Mills owns shares of Aben Resources (TSX.V:ABN) and ABN is a sponsor of his website aheadoftheherd.com.