

**EXCERPT FROM:  
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BOTTOM-FISH REVIEW**

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**Altius**

Altius Minerals Corp (ALS-C: \$0.25) announced that Billiton was proceeding with its second year on the 3,175 ha Victoria River project located 15 km south of the Buchans massive sulphide camp in Newfoundland. Billiton can earn 70% by spending \$1.3 million and paying \$200,000 over four years. Billiton spent \$200,000 in 1999 on targeting work. A drill program planned for this summer was deferred until next year in order to let targets be better defined. Of interest is a 200 metre long train of angular breccia boulders that contain high grade zinc-lead-copper-silver-gold massive sulphide clasts interpreted as evidence of nearby Buchans style deposits. The breccia is characterized as a debris flow unit similar to nearby outcrops. The richest Buchans ore consists of massive sulphide clasts that gravity flowed downslope from the VMS pile and were resedimented without sorting. Of all the VMS deposits in the world this process is most pronounced in the Buchans camp. The widespread presence of graphite and disseminated sulphides in the belt makes it difficult to use EM geophysics as a targeting tool, so Altius plans to use seismic surveys to identify gravity anomalies. The Victoria Lake belt, which runs parallel to the Buchans belt, is part of the so-called Central Mineral Belt of Newfoundland that qualifies for world class ranking. The Altius ground was held for a long time by Inco, which devoted most of its efforts to the Bobby's Pond deposit. Consequently the Victoria River land package has seen relatively little exploration compared to the rest of the belt. Billiton expects to start a 2,000 metre drill program in January. Altius is a classic toiling geologist bottom-fish exclusively focused on Newfoundland where it gets excellent deal flow from the thriving prospector community. The junior specializes in acquiring properties very cheaply and farming out work. It operates on a shoestring budget with working capital of \$200,000, but will have had \$1 million spent on its properties in 1999. The deals are not tough ones, and eventually Altius will be in the predicament of having to fund a minority stake in a new discovery operated by a major. However, the junior is constantly generating new projects, and when a resource sector bull cycle is well underway Altius will have no shortage of 100% owned properties. Of the 9.3 million issued (12.1 million fully diluted), management headed by Brian Dalton, Roland Butler and Geoffrey Thurlow own at least 5 million shares. Another 1.1 million shares are owned by venture capitalist Allen Yung, a Rick Rule limited partnership, Haywood's John Tognetti, and semi-retired button pusher Hugh

Mogensen, who took down a private placement of 1,116,667 units at \$0.30 last February. The stock is dreadfully illiquid, though it does have a decent profile in the Newfoundland media. I'd like to go into project details on Altius, but I will save that for a future Tracker. Brian Dalton has indicated that next week lots of new information will be available on its updated web site at [www.alt-min.com](http://www.alt-min.com). I do want to point out that Altius has several projects in the Botwood Basin which it believes has the potential as a major epithermal gold district. One of these projects, the Mustang, is under option to Jacques Trottier's Sulliden Explorations Inc (SUE-M: \$0.95), which can earn 60% by spending \$1,470,000 and paying \$250,000. Sulliden is busy these days with the Santo Toribio gold project in Peru located only kilometres from Barrick's Pierina deposit. I have been keeping a close eye on Sulliden since it broke out of its \$0.30-\$0.40 bottom-fish holding pattern in early September. After a run to a high of \$1.70 during which Bob Bishop initiated coverage, Sulliden has pulled back to allow a financing. The exploration target is a low sulphidation epithermal system, which means that it is not a lookalike for another Pierina deposit. However, this is the sort of gold system Sulliden is also seeking in the Botwood Basin through its joint ventures with Altius. I mention Mustang because this 3,050 ha property covers the southern half of the Appleton Linear structure that Dale Hoffman's United Carina Resources Corp (UCA-V: \$0.78) is currently drilling under John Harvey's supervision. United Carina has reported spectacular high grade gold surface values from a quartz vein system within a package of sediments cut by the north-south structure. On Monday October 25 United Carina reported that the first two holes on the Dome Showing had intersected good intervals of mineralization visually similar to the high grade gold trenched at surface. Dale Hoffman made a point of promising that United Carina "at this time will make no estimates on grades until assays are received", as if anybody post-Cartaway would expect management to do anything of the sort for the record. Hugh Mogensen, who recently became a financial backer of United Carina and was a director of Cartaway during the infamous eyeball assay days of 1996, probably read the riot act to Hoffman, who figured there is more than one way to skin a cat. Hoffman has been trying to create an area play atmosphere for his Linear Group project, but has not had much luck because of his emphasis on the project's high grade gold results and efforts to farm out land controlled by his stable of juniors. Altius, I think, had the right idea with its concept of the Botwood Basin epithermal play, but lacked the spectacular numbers needed to make anybody but geologists care. Brian Dalton of Altius tells me that Altius had made an offer on the Linear Group to Peter Dimmel's group that as far as he can tell was superior to what United Carina eventually paid. Good luck trying to outfox a wily madman like Dale Hoffman. But combine a discovery play in the hands of Dale Hoffman with the broader theoretical implications for a district play and we just might have a magnet for speculators. Because Altius is weak in the working capital department I rate it a medium priority buy, but I suggest that bottom-fishers keep a close eye on United Carina for evidence that the game is on. For bottom-fishers who bought United Carina on the basis of the September 20 Tip of the Week at \$0.59, the volume is too low to sell on speculation of a standard pump & dump play. Assays are not expected by the first week of

November. The United Carina spec cycle is not going to be exhausted by the first few holes in a structurally complex high grade gold zone. Let this one build. United Carina Tel #: (800) 661-4050. Altius Tel #: (709) 576-2209.

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