

From The Mineral Inventory Files

Meadowville Deserves Another Chance

Not often can I present a situation where there is already a clearly defined, drillable target awaiting investigation but such is the case at the Meadowville Zn-Pb prospect, found about 15 km west of the town of Pictou (Fig. 1). Given the booming metal markets and resultant hyperactive exploration that have existed over the last few years it's surprising that the Meadowville deposit is not receiving more attention. In fact, at the time of writing, the property remains unstaked.

Several base metal exploration projects along the north flank of the Cobequid Highlands in western Pictou County during the 1960s and 70s revealed a lot of geochemical 'noise' throughout that region. In the early 1980s, geochemical surveys by Bluestack Resources and BP-Selco revealed several east-trending Zn and Pb anomalies in detailed soil and basal till surveys over an area southwest of the small community of Meadowville (Fig. 1). The anomalies were found to be coincident with the base of the Carboniferous sandstone- and shale-dominated Boss Point Formation along its unconformable contact with the underlying conglomeratic Claremont Formation. Additional prospecting quickly revealed the widespread presence of sphalerite- and galena-bearing boulders of a typical sandstone-hosted, disseminated mineral occurrence. Analogies would be the Scandinavian Laisvall base metal deposits and, more locally, Nova Scotia's Yava Pb deposit in southeast Cape Breton and the lesser known Leitches Creek Pb-Zn prospect near Sydney.

Rio Algom Exploration drilled two holes at Meadowville in 1992, targeting the base of the Boss Point Formation. Hole DDH M-1 encountered 10 m with concentrations from 0.5-1.0% Zn and 0.1-1% Pb. Mispac Resources Incorporated acquired the property in 1997 and drilled two holes to test the base of the Boss Point Formation and possible down-dip extension of the mineralized zone encountered in DDH M-1. These holes (M-97-1 and M-97-2; Fig. 1) were

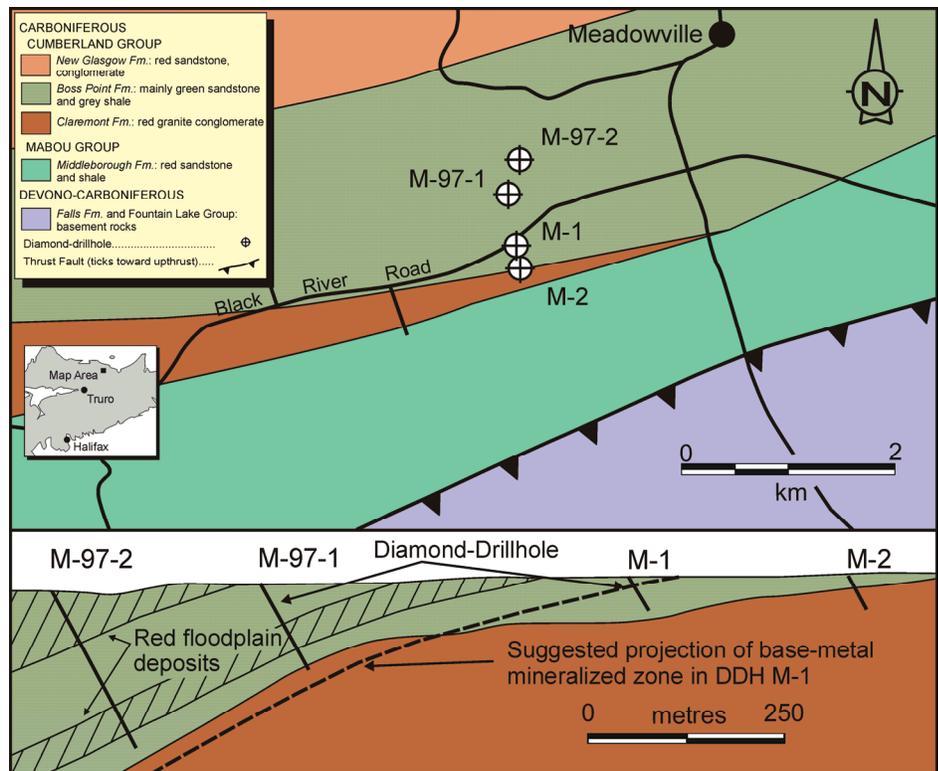


Figure 1. Geological map and cross-section of the Meadowville area, Pictou County, showing the Zn geochemical anomalies of Bluestack Resources and diamond-drill holes of Rio Algom Exploration and Mispac Resources Inc. The cross-section along the diamond-drill hole profile is based on the Mispac Resources exploration but the dashed line represents what may be the actual location of the mineralized zone encountered in hole DDH M-1.

thought to have penetrated to the underlying Claremont Formation but yielded only weakly elevated Zn-Pb levels so the property was dropped. This may have ended the story except that F. W. Chandler of the Geological Survey of Canada entered the picture in 2000, carrying out an examination of the drillholes and formulating his own re-interpretation of the results (<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection-R/GSC-CGC/M44-2000/M44-2000-D10E.pdf>). Chandler feels confident that the Mispac drilling actually did not penetrate to the base of the Boss Point Formation and its potentially mineralized zone. Instead, he provides a compelling case that the conglomerates intersected at the bottom

of DDH M-97-1, which were thought by Mispac to represent the underlying conglomeratic Claremont Formation, are actually just one of the channel lag conglomerates that are typically known within the Boss Point Formation sequence. The cross-section provided in Figure 1 shows the interpretation as presented from the Mispac assessment, but has been modified (dashed line) to indicate the greater depth at which the base of the Boss Point Formation and potential mineralized zone actually exist. The Chandler interpretation appears sound and this model needs further testing. Clearly, the Meadowville property warrants another round of exploration.

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