

SAVE THE Tatshenshini... *the* **WILDEST** **RIVER** in North America



ART WOLFE



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A rare glacier bear

Mining company threatens provincial government: *Let us develop a mine in the heart of the Tatshenshini wilderness or give us a billion dollars to compensate our shareholders.* See page two.

SPIRIT OF A VAST LAND

In the wild, remote, northwest corner of British Columbia on the Alaskan border, the Tatshenshini (TAT-SHEN-SHEE-NEE) River begins its journey to the Pacific Ocean. It flows northward into the Yukon, then abruptly turns westward back into B.C., rapidly growing as it is fed by the melt waters from the world's largest non-polar ice fields. Just before entering Alaska, the Tatshenshini joins the mighty Alsek (AL-SECK) River. By now, glaciers descend mountain flanks to the river's edge where they shear off thunderously into icebergs. Experts agree. This is the wildest river system left in North America.

Along its 160 mile course, the Tatshenshini transects an immense wilderness from beautiful sub-tundra in the Yukon to Alaska's magnificent Glacier Bay National Park. Growing to more than a mile in width and carrying an incredible load of silt, this river cuts through Canada's highest mountains, the

St. Elias; past B.C.'s highest peak, Mt. Fairweather (15,300'); and through the most productive year-round grizzly habitat on Earth. The wildlife populations are outstanding: glacier and grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, goats, moose, bald and golden eagles, gyrfalcon and peregrine falcons. Unique on the planet, the Tatshenshini is the wildest of the wild...the spirit of a vast land.

Surrounded on all sides by National Parks--Glacier Bay and Wrangells-St. Elias in Alaska and Kluane in the Yukon--protection of British Columbia's Tatshenshini would link together and complete the largest international wilderness preserve on the planet: 23 million acres.

But, although it is proposed for World Heritage Site status by the prestigious International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Tatshenshini is in immediate peril. Geddes Resources, a Toronto-based junior

mining company, wants to build a huge, environmentally devastating open pit copper mine--the largest in Canada--and construct a 150 mile long slurry pipeline and road into the heart of this wilderness area. If the B.C., Canadian and U.S. governments were to permit this project to proceed, a short-lived mine would devastate world-class wildlife populations and could generate vast amounts of acid and heavy metal pollutants for hundreds of years, poisoning this wild and incredibly biologically-rich place.

Tatshenshini wilderness has endured the most massive natural forces: North America's largest earthquakes and immense glaciers. But today, the actions of Geddes, with its heavy machinery and industrial technology, could destroy it. Only the efforts of conservationists and environmentalists in Canada and the United States, people like yourself, who care for the planet will save it.

WINDY CRAGGY - A MINE TH

World Class Wilderness Threatened by Mega- mine

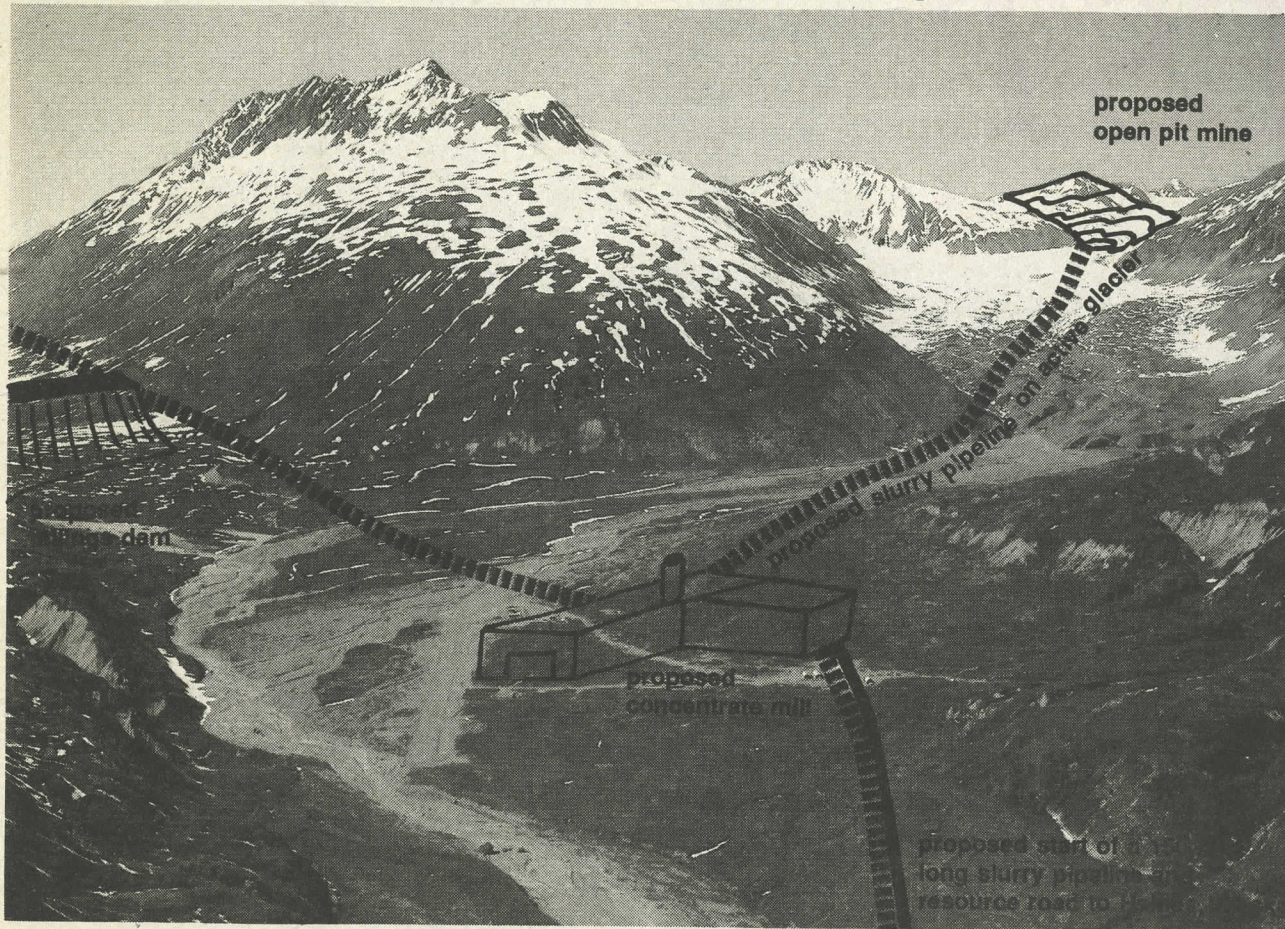
In the centre of the Tatshenshini Wilderness, Geddes Resources has plans to tear the top off 6,000 foot-high Windy Craggy Mountain and transform

what's left into the largest open pit copper mine in Canada (30,000 tons/day). Geddes is pressing for quick approval from government to start

building the mine, wanting to start construction perhaps by 1994.

But the ore in Windy Craggy mountain is 35% sulphide. If this rock is exposed to atmospheric oxygen and water vapour, huge amounts of sulphuric acid would be created. This would then leach out heavy metals from bedrock. Both the heavy metals and acid are extremely toxic to fish. Once they start being generated from mine waste, there is no known technology to stop them.

Because of the gigantic size of the proposed Geddes project and the fact that the ore is 300% more acid-generating than other B.C. copper mines (it is said to be capable of producing acid more potent than that found in car batteries), the chance of acid drainage and heavy metals leaching into the Tatshenshini watershed and poisoning this international salmon producing river is almost certain. The impacts on the fish as well as on the bear and eagle populations that thrive on them--both within Canada and in the U.S. Glacier Bay National Park--would be catastrophic.



KEVIN SCHAFER

Proposed open pit mine and ore concentration mill site.

Tatshenshini Wilderness Up for Ransom?

In January 1992, Geddes brashly stated that the B.C. government must pay one billion dollars in compensation if the Tatshenshini is preserved as parkland!

This attempt to "mine" Windy Craggy's park potential must not be allowed. The Tatshenshini lands are publicly owned. Most of the money invested in exploring the Windy Craggy deposit came from the taxpayer's pocket, generated by a now-defunct Canadian

government tax write-off scheme. With this crucial funding source now cut off, Geddes, the number one user of this program, seems desperate.

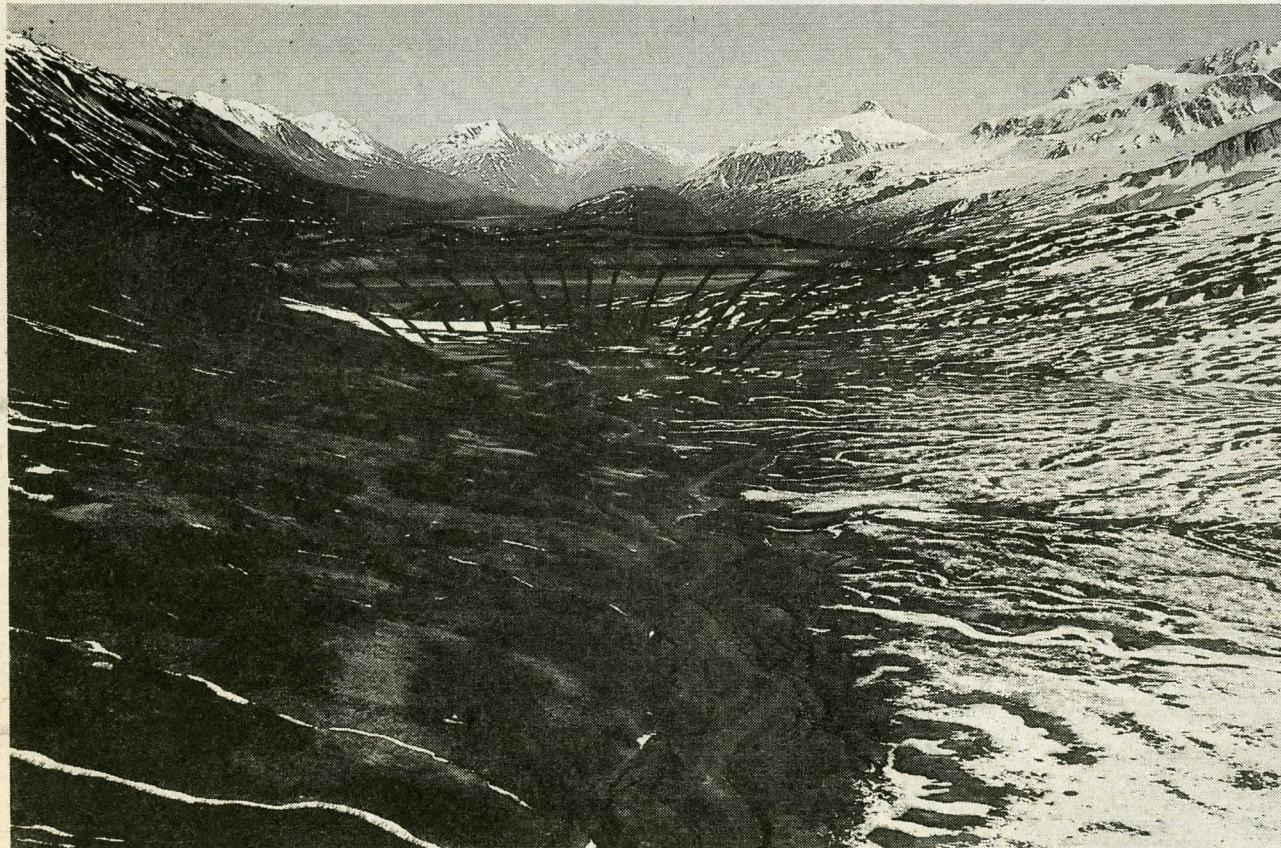
In the high risk world of speculative mining stocks, few companies win, and many lose. Windy Craggy appears to be a loser--both economically and environmentally. So no compensation is due.

Extreme Earthquake Risk

At the head of Tats Creek, Geddes plans to build a 360 foot high earthen dam to store the mine's toxic, acid rock tailings. The company says that the tailings will be kept underwater, out of contact with the air, to prevent the generation of acid. But the Windy Craggy site, like the surrounding area, is located in the most earthquake-prone area in North America--much more active than California's San Andreas fault.

Geddes' proposed mine would be situated just 30 miles from North America's most active fault. The largest quake recorded in North America (8.6 on the Richter scale) occurred in 1899 only 75 miles from Windy Craggy. When the shock wave from this quake hit, the mountains thrust up by 50 feet and, in just five minutes, glaciers surged forward 1/2 mile.

Such great quakes constantly occur in the Tatshenshini region. How can Geddes count on its dam to forever protect the river, its fish, eagles and bears from being poisoned? Sooner or later, the dam will surely break, exposing the tailings to air and creating massive acid contamination.



KEVIN SCHAFER

Proposed 360 foot high dam would create a 2.5 mile long reservoir for acid-rock mine tailings.

WHAT MUST NEVER BE BUILT

Government experts say that the hazard of massive amounts of acid bleeding from the open pit walls and exposed waste rock would endure for a thousand years or more after the mine's closing. Surely such damage is not worth a mere 15 to 30 years of mining.

Mine Uneconomic

Resource economists contend that the Windy Craggy mine is uneconomic to develop. While the deposit is very large and of good grade, it would be extremely expensive to develop due to the remoteness and extreme climate of the Windy Craggy site. To be viable, it is estimated that the mine needs a per pound copper price of \$.85 (US). The World Bank predicts a copper price of \$.65 in 1995 and \$.64 in the year 2000. Copper is a very common element. Its use in communication systems and plumbing systems is decreasing at the same time as recycling of the metal is increasing. It would be tragic to destroy forever a river that is as priceless and irreplaceable as the Grand Canyon of the Colorado for a brief supply of such a common commodity.

*...we can't enjoy this planet in a
• cash economy unless we have the
cash to enjoy it with...*

Gerald Harper, President, Geddes Resources,
Yukon News, February 28, 1990



PHIL HOCKING

**A mountain in the heart of the
Tatshenshini wilderness would look
like this...if we let it happen.**

Slurry Pipeline Breaks and Spills Inevitable

Geddes Resources wants to build a 150 mile long slurry pipeline and oil pipeline as well as a major access road right into the heart of the Tatshenshini. The proposed pipelines and road:

- would run through the heart of the finest grizzly habitat on Earth, the only Dall sheep winter range in B.C. and the most important eagle sanctuary in the world (the Chilkat River Eagle Preserve, which supports 3,500 eagles).
- would require bridging of the Tatshenshini River as well as 26 tributary crossings, would visually scar the wilderness valley and provide road access for poachers.
- would dump 360,000 gallons per day of pipeline effluent into the ocean at Haines, Alaska, threatening a \$41 million/year fishery there.
- would result in major wildlife losses from collisions with constant heavy truck traffic.

A break in the slurry pipeline would be a catastrophe. The company would be

faced with either allowing the flow to continue spewing out the rupture, or stopping the flow, only to have the line freeze or solidify. Such breaks are very likely due to the extreme earthquake

and snowslide hazards of the region. The salmon and eagle populations of the Tatshenshini and Chilkat Rivers would be devastated by heavy metal, acid and oil pipeline spills.



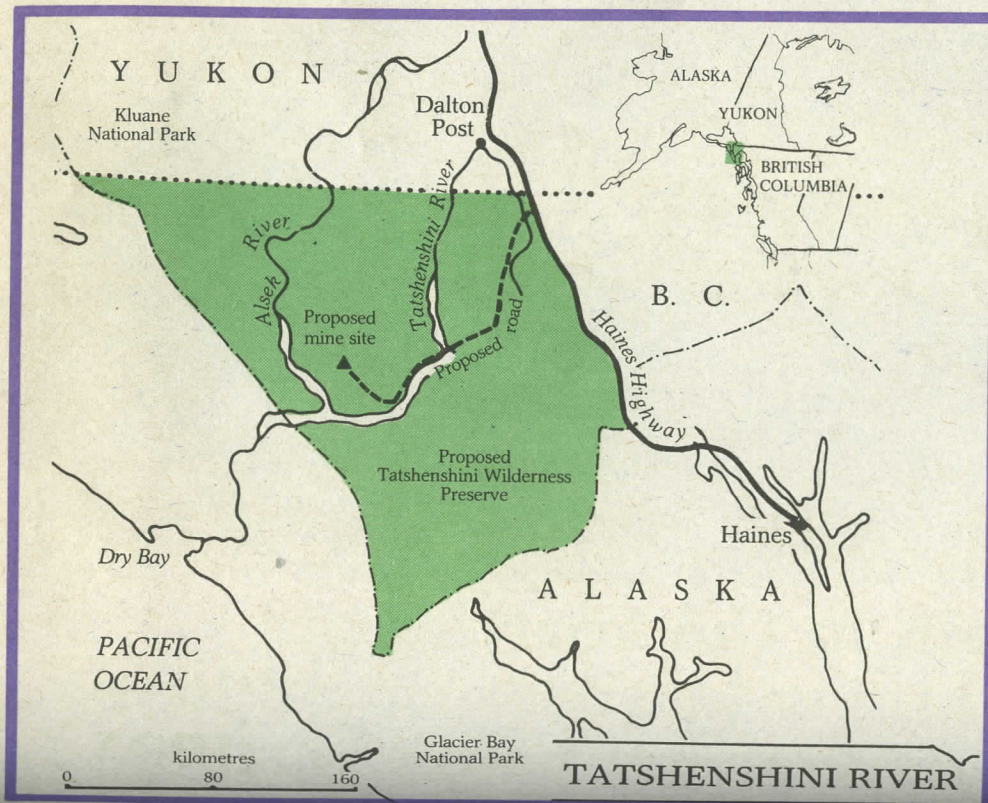
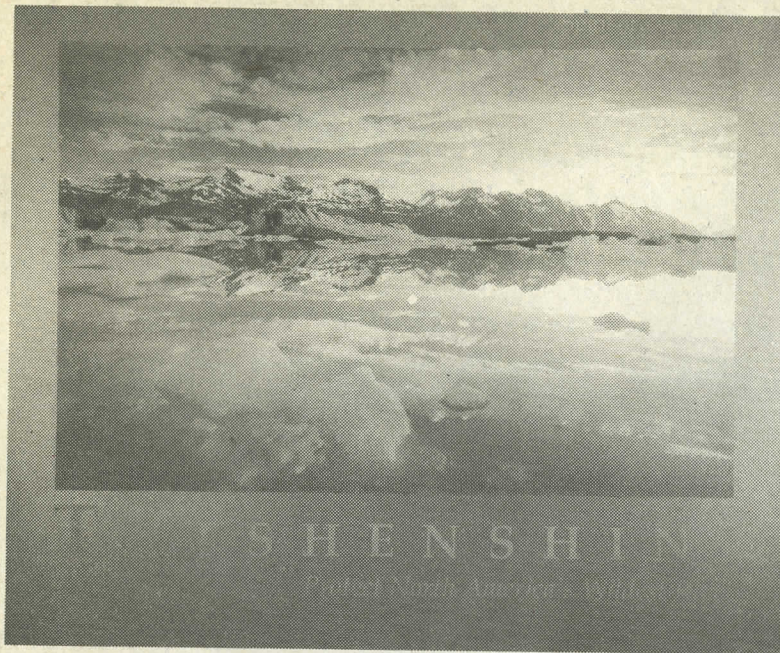
KEVIN SCHAFER

Proposed Tatshenshini River crossing for mining road and slurry pipeline.

A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

- * Highest year-round concentration of grizzly bears on Earth
- * Home of the rare glacier bear (silver-blue subspecies of the black bear) found only in the Tatshenshini wilderness and adjacent lands in Alaska
- * Only year-round Dall sheep herds in British Columbia
- * Largest subspecies of moose in the world
- * Outstanding numbers of wolf, mountain goat, wolverine, golden and bald eagles, peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons and trumpeter swans
- * All five species of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout

ART WOLFE



Take ten minutes to help save the Tatshenshini from the proposed wilderness-destroying mine

Write now to:

I realize that you need my help to save the Tatshenshini Wilderness

- Here is my gift of \$_____. I understand that it is tax deductible and that my donation will go towards the campaign to protect North America's wildest river The Tatshenshini from industrial development. (Revenue Canada Tax Registration #0587113-21-28).
- Yes, I want to become a Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my \$30 membership fee. (Membership fees include a 1993 endangered wilderness calendar and is therefore not tax-deductible.)
- Please send me a copy of your new full colour 25" X 29" **Spirit of a Vast Land - TATSHENSHINI - PROTECT NORTH AMERICA'S WILDERNESS** poster as shown above. Enclosed is \$12 to cover all costs including taxes and shipping.
- Please send me a copy of your full-colour, 18" x 24" **ICE AGE WILDERNESS -TATSHENSHINI - Protect North America's Wildest River** poster. Enclosed is \$7 to cover all costs, including taxes and shipping.
- I also would like a copy of Ken Madsen's *Tatshenshini Wilderness Quest and other river adventures* 160 page soft cover book. Enclosed is \$15 to cover all costs. I understand that all proceeds from this book go towards saving the Tatshenshini watershed.

Name _____ Address _____
(please print)

City _____ Prov./State _____ Postal/ZIP Code _____

Please make your cheque or money order payable to **WCWC - Tatshenshini Preservation Fund** and send it to Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 1A4. Thank you very much!

Premier Mike Harcourt
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, B. C.
V8V 1X4

He has the power to just say "no" to the mining development because of its potential negative environmental impacts. He has the power to designate this area a world class park.

Prime Minister
Brian Mulroney
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

He has the power to block the project by requiring a complete Environmental Review Assessment Process.

President George Bush
White House
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A.

He can stop the proposed mine if he decides to refuse to accept the environmental risks to U.S. fisheries and Glacier Bay National Park and disallows the mine concentrate to be shipped through the U.S.

Please send a copy of your letter to us at WCWC so we can show others the strong public concern for the wild Tatshenshini.



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A special thanks to all the people who have helped and continue to help save the Tatshenshini. Especially the professional photographers who have so generously provided the use their images of the area without charge.