

Mining Matters

ROUNDUP

The Association for Mineral Exploration in BC (AMEBC) hosted its 28th annual Roundup industry conference in Vancouver last week. With over 7,000 registered attendees, it was the biggest Roundup ever! From university students' poster sessions to the trade show, from fascinating talks to great networking sessions, Roundup is a not-to-miss event each January.

Smithers was well-represented by our Mayor, the Smithers Exploration Group (SEG), NWCC's School of Exploration & Mining, and numerous local businesses. SEG distributed almost 700 copies of its 2011 directory at Roundup and that means every 10th person at Roundup knows about the services offered locally to the minerals industry.

Regional Geologist Paul Wojdak kicked off the technical talks with an overview of activity in BC; geologist Peter Ogryzlo presented an update on Huckleberry Mines expansion plans; and Hy-Tech's Harvey Tremblay accepted the David Barr Award.

For Excellence in Leadership and Innovation in Mineral Exploration Health and Safety at the awards banquet. Rumour has it that Smithers and region represent the third largest contingent of people at Roundup.

WOMEN IN MINING

The Northern BC Chapter of Women in Mining hosted their inaugural meeting last month at local restaurant, Luftikus. Anja Weiss, owner of the establishment, is also a geologist and was pleased to be able to offer space and attend the event at the same time!

Women in Mining is a cross-Canada group for women in all areas of the industry. Originally started in the 1970s by spouses of men in the industry, WIM is now a supportive network hosting events, talks, and speaker luncheons, among other things, for its members. WIM is entirely volunteer-driven.

The Smithers-based Northern BC branch hopes to get the word out to women all over the north and begin hosting some entertaining get-togethers. In the plans are a martini reception, brown bag lunches featuring relevant speakers, and snowshoeing/hiking trips in the local area. They are also hoping to launch a website in the near future.

If you would be interested in presenting to, or hosting a WIM event, please contact me at anastasia@utmexploration.com. Anything of interest to women is great – we are not just focussed on mining and exploration. ■

“Mining Matters” is a bi-monthly column written by Anastasia Ledwon, P.Geo., and welcomes your feedback and questions at general@smithers.ca

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