



BACKGROUND

AME BC Announces 2009 Award Winners

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The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2009 Awards. The awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Dinner gala on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, during [Mineral Exploration Roundup 2010](#).

H. H. "Spud" Huestis Award

Winner: Shawn Ryan

Shawn Ryan has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 H. H. "Spud" Huestis Award for excellence in prospecting and mineral exploration. More specifically, Shawn, a self-taught Yukon prospector, is acknowledged for his ability to initiate conceptual ideas on generative and grassroots exploration in prospective regions of the Yukon. He very diligently translates these ideas with thorough geological research of old maps and more recent reports to identify target areas on which to systematically focus his field programs. His field work applies well-coordinated modern exploration methods and techniques as well as long days of tough old-fashioned boot and hammer slogging in the bush. In the winter, he has spent countless hours poring over field notes and maps, research articles, and computer database printouts in libraries and archives. (He even read computer database reports by candlelight in the dark winter months in the early years when his home lacked electricity). Shawn has developed expertise in many advanced technologies and these are applied to his high-quality field data compilations that are presented on carefully prepared maps and reports.

Most importantly, it is Shawn's creative imagination to conceptualize mineralization models. With the eye of a hawk and a nose of a hound, he has been very successful in prospecting and making mineral discoveries. His most recent and most significant discovery is the White Gold property, 75 kilometres south of the historic Klondike gold field near Dawson City, Yukon. This discovery and the follow-up exploration by Underworld Resources on geochemical anomalies defined by Shawn, are now outlining significant zones of gold mineralization in two target areas referred to as the Golden Saddle and Arc Zones. Shawn's company, Ryan Wood Exploration, has most recently staked and defined a significant geochemical anomaly on the Coffee Creek property in the White Gold area. These highly promising exploration results have triggered a major claim staking rush and exploration boom in what is now called the White Gold District along the regional Tintina Gold Belt.

E.A. Scholz Award

Winners: Stephen Quin & Bruce McLeod

Stephen Quin and Bruce McLeod (the Sherwood Team) are the recipients of the 2009 E.A. Scholz Award for excellence in mine development. Stephen Quin, president and chief operating officer of Capstone

Mining Corp., and Bruce McLeod, former executive chairman of Sherwood Copper Corp., are being acknowledged for their leadership in bringing the Minto copper-gold-silver project in the Yukon to production. They initially evaluated and recognized the property's development potential, and then acquired Minto for Sherwood Copper Corp. in 2005. They then guided the project through exploration, feasibility stage, permitting, mine financing and construction phases to successfully advance the project to mine operation. An important process in this development was the establishment of a highly progressive and cooperative relationship with government agencies, First Nations, and local communities to facilitate project advancement. The development of this mine was completed in October 2007, ahead of schedule and on-budget; the project from exploration to mine operation has brought great socio-economic benefits to the Yukon and its people.

Concurrently with the development of the Minto Mine, a very successful exploration program on the property has discovered new zones of high grade copper-gold mineralization that has been translated into increased resources and expanded production schedules for the mine. Sherwood Copper grew, and the team of Stephen Quin and Bruce McLeod was successful in acquiring the advanced-stage Kutcho Creek copper project in B.C. In late 2008, the Sherwood Team negotiated a merger with Capstone Mining which brings the producing Cozamin copper mine in Mexico into their portfolio of properties. Throughout their projects, Stephen and Bruce have focused on developing profitable, low-risk properties with professionalism, honesty, technical expertise, integrity, hard work, and fair negotiations.

Murray Pezim Award

Winner: Channing Buckland

Channing Buckland is the recipient of the 2009 Murray Pezim Award.

Chan was chosen for his long-standing and continuing dedication and perseverance in financing the junior mineral exploration sector, during a time span of over 45 years. Chan comes from a mining family with roots in British Columbia, and he earned a degree in Geological Engineering from the University of British Columbia in 1962. Shortly thereafter he joined the investment firm of Doherty Roadhouse & McQuaig, where he participated in the financing of Dynasty Explorations Ltd. in 1964-65. Dynasty Explorations discovered the world-class Faro lead-zinc deposit near Ross River, Yukon. This deposit was later developed by Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation as the Faro Mine, which by the mid-1970s was the largest lead-zinc producer in Canada and accounted for a substantial portion of the Yukon's economy.

Chan continued with very significant work with other brokerages, including the forerunner of what is now Canaccord Capital Inc., prior to establishing his own investment firm, Bolder Investment Partners. His technical background has enabled him to understand the opportunities in early stage exploration and to support these activities. Beneficiaries of his finance savvy have been diverse and have included the Apex germanium gallium mine in Utah, the legendary Hemlo gold properties in Ontario, and early support of Diamet's search for diamonds in Canada's north. He has been instrumental in arranging literally hundreds of financings totaling several hundred millions of dollars for numerous junior companies that have had promising projects. Chan is also widely known and respected for his integrity in dealing with his clients. In short, his contributions to junior mining exploration in B.C. and Yukon, and throughout western North America, are remarkable.

Hugo Dummett Diamond Award

Winner: Barbara Scott Smith

The Hugo Dummett Diamond Award was created to honour those who have made a significant contribution to diamond exploration, diamond technology, the diamond discovery process, or diamond mine development. Barbara Scott Smith is a fitting recipient of this award. Her work, both as a consultant and an educator has led to the better understanding of many diamond exploration and development projects. She has also had a significant impact in furthering the science of kimberlites and diamond geology in general. Based in Vancouver since 1982, Barbara has worked in over 25 countries worldwide and her research has led numerous publications and presentations including over 35 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals. She also developed the only school of petrology dedicated to the development and training of geologists and industry professionals involved in diamond exploration, evaluation, and mining.

Since earning her Ph.D. in 1977 from Edinburgh University, Barbara has mentored and trained a number of masters and doctoral candidates and employees of exploration and mining companies. She has taught them to perform to high professional standards. Barbara's publications and public presentations are well known to all diamond explorers. However, her significant contributions to a plethora on Canadian diamond projects are largely hidden by issues of confidentiality and commercial sensitivity and known only to her clients. In this sense, Barbara Scott Smith is representative of the unsung heroes of the Canadian diamond industry. Her expertise, enthusiasm, and professionalism have all contributed to Canada's position as a world centre for the diamond industry. It is fitting that this world authority on geology of kimberlites and lamproites be recognized with the Hugo Dummett award.

Colin Spence Award

Winner: Mark Rebagliati

Mark Rebagliati has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 Colin Spence Award for excellence in global mineral exploration. Mark is being recognized for his remarkable ability to examine and assess the geological parameters and potential of a deposit or prospect, consider the risk factors, and make sound decisions on coordinating an exploration strategy. He has made positive decisions on several important properties in foreign jurisdictions and assembled competent exploration teams to formulate and conduct progressive exploration programs. These decisions have led to new mineral discoveries, identifying and defining major extensions to deposits, and very successfully advanced early-stage mineralized zones to the development stage.

Mark planned and supervised property-wide exploration in 2001-2008 that identified additional porphyry copper-gold-molybdenum deposits and gold prospects along a 22-kilometre trend and led to the recognition and delineation of the higher grade zones in the Pebble West copper-gold-molybdenum porphyry deposit in Alaska, now with a 4.1 billion-tonne resource, and identification and modeling of specific geological controls for the Pebble deposit have led to the discovery of the massive Pebble East extension. The Pebble deposit is now ranked as a world-class giant porphyry deposit within a huge mineralized system.

Based on an initial examination of the Xietongmen copper-gold porphyry deposit in far-away Tibet, Mark was able to assess the geological potential of the attractive early-stage project against the logistical and political risks for operating a project in a comparatively underdeveloped part of the world. Considering the risks, an exploration strategy and exploration team were accordingly organized, and with the initiation of accelerated and very successful exploration campaigns, a major copper-gold deposit has been defined. Exploration work on the property has now discovered a second copper-gold porphyry deposit called Newtongmen.

With his understanding of mineralized systems, Mark has often initiated creative ideas of applying new exploration techniques to determine if signatures for new targets and geological trends can be identified. These initiatives have contributed to the discovery of several deposits in the Campo Morado Massive Sulphide District in Guerrero State, Mexico.

Robert R. Hedley Award

Winner: Judi L'Orsa

AME BC has selected Judi L'Orsa as the recipient of the 2009 Robert R. Hedley Award for Excellence in Social and Environmental Responsibility. In her work with the Northwest Community College School of Mining and the Smithers Exploration Group, Judi has demonstrated a strong commitment to mining in combination with the need to provide environmental stewardship and ensure the involvement of local communities. She is passionate about the importance of capacity building and the need for greater involvement of First Nations people in the mining industry.

Her efforts have been instrumental to the success of the Northwest Community College School of Exploration & Mining programs for training local aboriginal people for employment in mineral exploration and mining in northwestern British Columbia. She was an important participant in the curriculum development for both the Reclamation and Prospecting (RAP) program that was delivered in 2007 and 2008 and the Environmental Monitor Assistant Program (EMAP) that was delivered in 2009.

Her networking at Minerals North was instrumental in moving forward a support program to increase the number of local Aboriginal people with driver's licences. This initiative alone has removed a major barrier to employment in the minerals sector. Over the years Judi has worked with government and industry, and volunteered in the school system to ensure the minerals industry has played a role in the education of children and mineral exploration personnel in Bulkley Valley.

She has been in contact with Natural Resources Canada for information on new heating units that are aimed at moving camps away from fossil fuels. If feasible, Judi's camps could become a pilot project for an innovative pellet-burning system.

For more details about the awards, visit <http://www.amebc.ca/roundup/socialprograms/awards.aspx>.

About AME BC:

AME BC is the predominant voice of mineral exploration in British Columbia. Established in 1912, AME BC represents thousands of members including geoscientists, prospectors, engineers, entrepreneurs, exploration companies, suppliers, mineral producers, and associations who are engaged in mineral exploration in B.C. and throughout the world. Through leadership, advocacy, and partnerships, AME BC promotes a healthy environment and business climate for the mineral exploration industry.

About Mineral Exploration Roundup:

Mineral Exploration Roundup is the world's premier annual technical mineral exploration conference, and will be held from January 18 to 21, 2010, at The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver. The conference program includes high-profile international speakers on exploration activities, deposit geology, corporate social responsibility, Aboriginal and community relations, financing trends, and the outlook for 2010 and beyond. Roundup registration and tickets for the Awards Dinner are available at <http://www.amebc.ca/roundup/roundupregistration.aspx>.

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