



BACKGROUNDER

2011 AME BC Award Recipients

The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2011 Awards to be presented as part of Mineral Exploration Roundup 2012, January 23-26, at the Westin Bayshore, Vancouver.

The Awards Dinner will be held Wednesday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m.

H.H. "Spud" Huestis Award

Excellence in Prospecting and Mineral Exploration

Recipients: Dirk Tempelman-Kluit and Peter Bernier

Dirk Tempelman-Kluit and Peter Bernier formed Richfield Ventures at a time when juniors were struggling to survive, yet through remarkable perseverance discovered and defined a multi-million-ounce gold deposit in an underexplored portion of the Interior Plateau of central British Columbia. Their discovery of the Blackwater bulk-tonnage gold deposit sparked a rush to find similar deposits in the Nechako region.

Dirk was a highly respected research geologist and a former director of the Cordilleran Division of the Geological Survey of Canada before teaming up with Peter, a prospector with 30 years of exploration and project management experience. They formed Richfield in 2005 to focus on early-stage mineral projects. While examining historic exploration data on the Blackwater property in 2009, Dirk recognized the presence of widespread hydrothermal alteration in drill-core photographs, suggesting potential for associated bulk gold mineralization within the system. With help from local connections, Peter successfully acquired the key claims, including the vital Silver Quest property, and consolidated a land package over the entire target area. Dirk and Peter then focused on raising funds for an exploration program. Early drilling results returned long continuous intersections of gold mineralization, validating the conceptual deposit model proposed by Dirk. By mid-2010, drilling had defined a significant bulk-tonnage deposit. An initial resource estimate (indicated and inferred) containing 4.2 million ounces of gold was announced in March of 2011.

New Gold Inc. acquired Richfield in April 2011, and continued to expand the deposit with an accelerated drilling campaign. An updated resource estimate of 204 million tonnes grading 1.0 g/t gold, for a total of 6.3 million contained ounces (including 5.35 million indicated ounces), was released in September of 2011.

The Blackwater deposit (considered to be a low sulphidation epithermal type) is one of the most significant newly defined gold discoveries in British Columbia. The flat-lying deposit measures 1,040 meters by 600 meters wide and 350 metres thick and is presently being advanced by New Gold as a potential large-scale open-pit mine.

E. A. Scholz Award

Excellence in Mine Development

Recipients: Clynton Nauman and Bradley Thrall

Clynton Nauman, President and CEO, and Bradley Thrall, Environmental Vice-President and COO, of Alexco Resource Corp. are acknowledged for successfully re-opening the Bellekeno Mine and reviving Yukon's Keno Hill Silver District through an innovative strategy that includes managing environmental liabilities generated from more than 75 years of historic mining. Bellekeno achieved commercial production in early 2011, and is presently Canada's only primary silver mine.

Clynt, a geologist from New Zealand, and Brad, an American-educated metallurgical engineer with an MBA, are no strangers to the North. They were acclaimed for achieving high standards of operating and environmental and mine-closure excellence at the Brewery Creek gold mine in Yukon, while in leadership roles with Viceroy Resource Corp. from 1996 to 2001. During an industry downturn, they evaluated the abandoned Keno Hill silver camp for its exploration potential and the risks and challenges of managing the environmental liabilities of its historic mines.

Based on the evaluation, Clynt and Brad determined that the camp offered the opportunity to tackle the environmental cleanup while simultaneously exploring for new deposits. They formed Alexco in 2005, and negotiated contracts with the federal and Yukon governments to acquire 100% of the historic camp. In return, Alexco's environmental arm agreed to provide its environmental control expertise and services to reclamation programs to revitalize the historic silver camp.

As a first step, Clynt and Brad compiled a database of the historic production and exploration records for the district. Field programs began in 2006, initially around the dormant mines, and then expanded to the district-scale to search for new targets.

By late 2007, sufficient viable resources were defined to re-open the Bellekeno Mine, with Silver Wheaton participating as a partner by way of providing capital for mine construction. Bellekeno is expected to produce between 2.2 to 2.8 million ounces of silver per year, plus by-product lead and zinc. The reclamation and closure plans include proposals to reprocess tailings to recover silver and zinc. Clynt and Brad are also commended for providing opportunities in exploration, mine operations and environmental care and maintenance to the local Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation.

Murray Pezim Award

Perserverance and Success in Financing Mineral Exploration

Recipient: Mark O'Dea

Entrepreneurial energy, geological expertise and old-fashioned persistence helped Mark O’Dea achieve exploration success and create significant shareholder value.

Mark led his first junior explorer, Fronteer Gold, from inception to its final sale to Newmont Mining Corp. for a \$2.3 billion cash pay-out. He created Aurora Energy in 2006, and engineered the sale of its Labrador uranium assets to Paladin Energy for \$260 million in 2010. Mark has raised more than \$370 million of equity over 10 years.

Mark earned his B.Sc. in Geology from Carleton University before moving out to the west coast to work as a young field geologist in northern British Columbia. His next stop was Melbourne, Australia where he earned his doctorate from Monash University. After a brief stint working as a consulting structural geologist, Mark’s career path changed after winning the \$80,000 second prize in the Goldcorp Challenge at the 2001 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference (PDAC) in Toronto. A day later he agreed to take on an start-up exploration company and thus Fronteer Gold was born.

Fronteer started gold exploration near Red Lake, Ontario before Mark led the Company to Turkey to explore epithermal gold and copper-gold porphyry deposits in partnership with Teck Resources Inc. In 2003, he branched into uranium in Labrador and in 2006 he created a new public vehicle, Aurora Energy, defining a significant uranium deposit at Michelin. As Aurora’s largest shareholder, Fronteer purchased the remaining 58% for \$15 million net of the cash in Aurora’s treasury and eventually Mark engineered the sale of these uranium assets to uranium producer Paladin Energy Ltd. for \$260 million in 2010.

In 2007, Mark negotiated the \$160 million purchase of Newest Gold Corp. to acquire a portfolio of gold properties in Nevada. One of these assets, the Long Canyon project, showed early promise with project partner AuEx Resources and under Mark’s direction, Fronteer’s technical team quickly advanced the project to a resource of 2.2 million ounces of gold by the end of 2010. Recognizing the project needed consolidation, Mark completed the \$281 million purchase of AuEx paving the way to the eventual sale of Fronteer to Newmont in January 2011.

Mark is now chair of Pilot Gold, the spinoff from the Fronteer-Newmont transaction, and is founder, Chair and CEO of a new company, Blue Gold Mining.

Mark is a visionary, has a unique ability to engage investors, will take calculated risks and knows how to construct but importantly, close a deal. Mark is the prototype of the CEO that will lead the mining industry for the next 20 years.

Hugo Dummett Award

Excellence in Diamond Exploration and Development

Recipient: Jon Carlson

Jon Carlson joined the Canadian diamond hunt when it was in its infancy, bringing with him experience and expertise in the evolving science of kimberlite and diamond exploration. He contributed to the emerging industry by directing drilling, exploration and evaluation programs at an early-stage project in the Lac de Gras region of the Northwest Territories later developed into Ekati, Canada’s first diamond mine.

Jon's fascination with diamonds led him to Colorado State University in 1979, to study with Professor Malcolm McCallum, credited with the 1975 discovery of the Kelsey Lake kimberlites spanning the Wyoming-Colorado border. Jon's Master's dissertation focused on the geophysical techniques and other exploration methods used to delineate these diamondiferous kimberlites. After graduating in 1983, he joined a team assembled by Hugo Dummett of Superior Minerals (initially a joint venture with Lac Minerals) to explore for gold and diamonds in the Western U.S. In 1992, Jon Carlson joined Chuck Fipke's C.F. Mineral Research as project geologist, where his role was to carry out drilling programs in the Lac de Gras region for a joint venture between DiaMet Minerals and BHP. It was a reunion of sorts, as Dia Met founders Fipke and Stewart Blusson had also been involved in the Superior-led diamond hunt with Dummett. Jon transferred to DiaMet to become its chief geologist in 1994, and two years later joined the BHP team.

Jon Carlson made an outstanding contribution to Canada's diamond industry by championing sound science. He applied advanced geophysical techniques, used kimberlite petrography and age significance, and developed criteria for the interpretation of microdiamond characteristics with respect to macrodiamond grades, all keys to the success at Ekati. Jon is the only geologist who has worked full-time on the project for its 19-year duration. During his watch, more than 150 kimberlites were found within the license area; the best were developed into mines that have yielded more than 150 million carats of predominantly high-quality diamonds since 1998.

Colin Spence Award

Excellence in Global Mineral Exploration

Recipients: Jeff Pontius and the International Tower Hill Exploration Team

The transformation of the Livengood project from a geochemical gold anomaly into a multi-million-ounce gold deposit is a testament to the vision and combined geological talents of Jeff Pontius and the exploration team of International Tower Hill Mines Ltd.

Jeff was involved in several precious metals discoveries in Colorado and Nevada during his 30-year career in mineral exploration. While employed with AngloGold Ashanti, he brought his geological talents to Alaska, and was impressed with its potential to host world-class deposits.

He was introduced to the Livengood property in 2003, and quickly recognized the significance of an extensive (6-km long by 2-km wide) gold-in-soil anomaly situated at the headwaters of historic placer gold streams. Other attractive features were the project's location near Fairbanks, and exceptional infrastructure, including access to a highway, power, water and a skilled labour force.

Jeff convinced AngloGold to acquire and drill the prospect, which led to the discovery of the Livengood gold deposit in 2005. A year later, he joined International Tower Hill and negotiated to acquire Livengood and other assets being divested by AngloGold (in return, AngloGold gained a 19.9% equity interest in the junior company).

Jeff, then president and CEO, assembled a highly motivated and dedicated team to conduct full-scale exploration and drilling programs for International Tower Hill. The team's faith was rewarded as Livengood was advanced from an early-stage prospect to a substantial bulk-minable gold deposit along the prolific Tintina gold belt.

In August of 2011, a resource estimate was completed for the project, consisting of 933 million tonnes grading 0.55 g/t gold in the measured and indicated category, or 16.5 million contained ounces, plus an inferred resource of 257 million tonnes grading 0.50 g/t gold containing another 4.1 million ounces. A prefeasibility study is under way to move the project to the development phase, scheduled for completion in the first half of 2012. The project area is prospective for further discoveries, making Livengood an exploration camp as well as a potential mine.

David Barr Award

Excellence in Leadership and Innovation in Mineral Exploration Health and Safety

Recipient: Michael Gunning

Michael Gunning, president and CEO of Hathor Exploration Ltd., has made health and safety a core value throughout his 25-year career in mineral exploration, geological research and corporate management. His ability to build and lead safety-conscious teams has contributed to making Canada's mineral exploration and mining industry the safest in the world. Despite a busy and demanding career, he has generously supported the safety initiatives of industry associations, including AME BC.

Mike is widely recognized for his expertise in the uranium sector, where safety is paramount, yet has diverse experience in other industry segments gained since earning his Ph.D. in mineral deposits and volcanology from the University of Western Ontario. He was a senior project geologist for Teck Cominco (now Teck Resources Limited) and the former principal mineral deposits research geologist at the Saskatchewan Geological Survey. He is a past president of the Saskatchewan Geological Society, and in 2009, developed a safety workshop for Saskatchewan's mining industry.

Mike was previously President and CEO of Triex Minerals Corporation, which focused on uranium exploration before its business combination with Diamondex Resources. He then joined Hathor Exploration, which has achieved great exploration success at its Roughrider uranium deposit in Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin. It is the only major discovery made by a junior company in the 40-year history of the Basin. Cameco and Rio Tinto both made bids to acquire Hathor; as of late November 2011, Hathor recommended acceptance of Rio Tinto's increased \$654-million offer.

Always putting safety first, Mike has captivated audiences new to mineral exploration at AME BC's Introduction to Exploration Safety Workshop for the past six years.

Robert R. Hedley Award

Excellence in Social and Environmental Responsibility

Recipient: The Britannia Mine Museum

The Britannia Mine Museum exemplifies the values of social and environmental responsibility as the site of a former mine with a challenging environmental legacy that has been transformed by a \$14.7 million renovation and remediation program.

The transformation of the museum and its site reflects years of dedicated effort by hundreds of volunteers and the generous donations of industry leaders. With shared purpose, they executed one of the most inspiring turnaround stories in B.C. history.

The Britannia Mine operated for 70 years in the Howe Sound area, starting in 1905, and once held the status as the largest producing copper mine in the British Empire. A year after closure in 1974, the B.C. Museum of Mining opened at the site. In 1988, Britannia's mill — one of the last remaining gravity-fed concentrators in North America — was designated a National Historic Site. But the decaying buildings and the environmental challenge of acid rock drainage plagued the facility's reputation.

A fundraising initiative to rehabilitate the site began in the early 2000s, with matching funds from federal and provincial governments. A priority was to clean up contaminated soils and install a water treatment plant where mine drainage is captured and treated before being discharged into Howe Sound. Britannia Beach now has spawning salmon returning to its lower reaches as a testament to the success of the mitigation program. The newly refurbished mill building and the attractive new Visitor's Center have made the Britannia Mine Museum a popular tourist attraction on the Sea to Sky Highway. The museum's exhibits and tours are valuable tools in educating the public about the contributions of mining and minerals to society. AME BC has supported the evolution of the museum for many years, and along with the industry it serves, celebrates the achievements of the Britannia Mine Museum.

The Frank Woodside Past Presidents Distinguished Service Award

Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Association for Mineral Exploration BC

Recipients: James F. Allan, Glen D. Dickson, Grant Luck, Christine Ogrzlo

James F. Allan has made valuable contributions to the AME BC (formerly the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines) and to mineral discovery in Western and Northern Canada for more than half a century. He spent much of his early career with AMAX Exploration, starting in 1961, and is best known for his discovery of the Mactung tungsten deposit on the Yukon/Northwest Territories border in 1962.

Jim was AMAX's regional manager for Western Canada and Alaska from 1968 to 1973, and represented the company on the Chamber's Honourary Advisory Board for five years. He successfully lobbied the company to make a significant (\$25,000) donation to the new geology building at the University of British Columbia.

During Jim's tenure, AMAX was one of the first in BC to look into computerizing geochemical data and was also a leader in encouraging other companies to participate in developing a mineral database for BC, presently known as Minfile.

In addition to these and other industry contributions, Jim serves as an inspiration to young geologists for his solo Mactung discovery — accomplished with help from a pilot, some camp gear and extra fuel, and the smallest and cheapest plane that could land on floats. For many years, it was referred to as "the largest un-mined tungsten deposit in the world," because of the availability of cheap tungsten on the market. Fifty years later, with a resource defined and a feasibility study completed by current owner North American Tungsten, Mactung's "undeveloped" status may soon change.

Glen D. Dickson is one of Vancouver's most successful field geologists and junior mining executives, credited with the discovery and development of the Meadowbank and Meliadine gold projects at Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. He has also been a strong supporter of AME BC for many years, notably through the Mineral Exploration Roundup, where he managed the popular annual curling tournament for 23 years.

Glen has more than 30 years of mineral exploration experience, but made his mark in the North. He discovered the Meadowbank and Meliadine gold deposits in Nunavut while serving as senior geologist of Asamera Minerals Inc. from 1987 to 1992. When Asamera was acquired by Gulf Canada and discontinued its mineral division in 1993, Glen acquired the projects on behalf of a new junior, Cumberland Resources Ltd.

As President and CEO of Cumberland from 1993 to 2007, Glen developed the projects into the largest new gold deposits in the territory, and brought them to the production stage when control was acquired by Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Meadowbank began production in early 2010, and is presently one of Agnico-Eagle's largest mines, with almost 3.5 million ounces gold in reserves (34 million tonnes at 3.2 g/t gold) and potential for more. Meliadine is presently at the feasibility study stage.

Glen continues to be active in mineral exploration and development as chairman and CEO of Gold-Ore Resources, which operates the Bjorkdal gold mine in northern Sweden. He is also a director of Atna Resources Ltd. and Brazilian Gold Corporation.

Grant Luck never discovered or operated a mine, yet has flown many geoscientists and executives to their discoveries and operations in Western Canada. Along with an aviation career spanning five decades, he has maintained a lifelong interest in mineral exploration, attending Roundup and other conferences over the years.

Grant is a resident of Fort St. James, known as "the Bush Flying Capital of BC" since the 1920s and 1930s. It was here that two of Canada's major airlines were born, Canadian Pacific and Pacific Western Airlines. Bush pilots who spent parts of their early careers flying out of "the Fort" include Grant McConachie, later of Canadian Pacific, Russ Baker of Pacific Western fame, and Grant's father, Sheldon Luck, an early associate of McConachie.

Grant completed his initial flying training in the early 1960s, and worked for several companies after getting his commercial fixed wing rating. He began an association with the helicopter business at this time, and took commercial helicopter training in 1971, spending many summers flying to and from exploration camps in Yukon and Northern BC. He flew part-time for Northern Mountain Helicopters in Fort St. James before helping start up Pacific Western Helicopters in 1990. Grant and son Westley, also a helicopter pilot, formed Interior Helicopters in 1997. These firms were involved with the mineral exploration industry and had booths or representation at Roundup. Interior Helicopters sponsored BC Night at a time when support was needed most. By honouring Grant Luck, AME BC is also honouring those countless fixed wing and helicopter pilots who have been an integral part of the industry for the past century.

Christine Ogrzlo has been a valued contributor to AME BC's Communications Committee since 2003, and the Aboriginal Relations Committee since 2009. She serves on the Editorial Board for

and contributes articles to AME BC's magazine, *Mineral Exploration*, and also sits on the Mining Association of BC's Mining Week committee. In addition, she is a founding member of the Steering Committee for the Northwest Community College (NWCC) School of Exploration and Mining, where she represents the school's industry partner, Smithers Exploration Group (SEG). A graduate of Carleton University, Christine has 35 years of experience as a journalist, editor, producer and communications consultant. Her areas of expertise include mining, forestry and other natural resources. She also has continuous exposure to mining through her geologist husband, Peter Ogryzlo.

As a consultant to NWCC since 2005, Christine is a key participant in developing curricula to meet the employment needs of the minerals industry and local communities, building capacity in rural and First Nations communities near active exploration and development projects and potential new mines. She has helped raise and attract millions of dollars in government, trust, and industry funding for developing new programs and program delivery at the school. As the director of communications for SEG, she promotes and serves the local minerals industry. Christine has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours for many years to help build a strong minerals sector in BC, for the benefit of the industry and society.

Gold Pan Award

Exceptional Meritorious Service to the Mineral Exploration Community through the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia

Recipient: Ed Kimura

Ed Kimura has been a fixture on the Vancouver mining scene for over thirty years, with much of it spent as Placer Dome's highly respected exploration manager for Canada. He is a Life Member of AME BC, which he continues to serve in his retirement years through volunteer roles on the Awards Committee of which he is Co-Chair, the Membership and Liaison Committee, the *Mineral Exploration* Editorial Board and the Commemorative Book Task Group. Ed brings decades of industry experience and insight to AME BC, having participated in or witnessed the discovery and development of dozens of mines in Western and Central Canada.

In the early years of his career, Ed worked for six years as an underground mine geologist at the uranium mines in Uranium City, Saskatchewan. After joining Placer, he spent 35 years engaged in exploration and open-pit mine geology at the company's Craigmont (copper) and Endako (molybdenum) mines. His experience at these and other mines encompassed production planning, ore-grade control, mine and regional exploration, resource and reserves estimates, and geotechnical studies. Ed was previously awarded the Frank Woodside Past Presidents Distinguished Service Award for his service to the association and the minerals industry.

Special Tributes

AME BC will honour two recently retired government geoscientists with Special Tributes: **David Lefebure**, former chief geologist with the British Columbia Geological Survey, and **Michael Burke**, former head of the Mineral Services Division of the Yukon Geological Survey. Both have gone on to new opportunities. Dave is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences in Victoria, while Mike has joined the junior mining sector.

David Lefebure joined the British Columbia Geological Survey in 1986 as the district geologist for Smithers, just in time for the "Golden Triangle" exploration boom. He moved to Victoria to

supervise the Economic Geology section in 1991, and later the Mapping and Resource Evaluation Section. Chief geologist since 2002, he led a group of geoscientists working to attract investment in BC's mineral and coal resources.

David was much respected by the BC exploration community for his initiatives that advanced and supported the industry. He originated and led the BC Mineral Deposit Profiles, a widely used and much appreciated summary of mineral deposit types in BC (and elsewhere) that is essential to exploration. Under his tenure, MapPlace has become recognized as one of the best geological databases in the world. He was a key player in the development and delivery of the BC Mining Plan and played a major role in developing the BC mineral potential assessment, the most sophisticated resource evaluation of any jurisdiction to date. His dedication and service to the industry and to the province have been exceptional and will be missed.

For 20 years, Mike Burke and his Yukon Geological Survey colleagues have provided a welcoming environment and a solid geoscience foundation for the territory to become a highly favoured destination for mining and mineral exploration.

Mike first saw Yukon during the mid-1980s, as a summer student for Canamax Resources. After earning his B.Sc. from the University of British Columbia in 1987, he worked full-time at Canamax's Ketz River gold project. When the project closed in the early 1990s, he joined the Yukon Geological Survey and before long, was familiar with every mine and mineral prospect in the territory.

Mike was unquestionably Yukon's best ambassador and a catalyst for promoting Yukon's mineral potential and mining industry to China and other investors. He has assisted and encouraged many geoscientists and prospectors, including Shawn Ryan and others who sparked the territory's present exploration boom.