



BACKGROUND

AME BC Announces 2015 Award Recipients

Leaders in Mineral Exploration and Mine Development to Be Recognized at January 27 Gala

Vancouver, BC — December 8, 2015 — The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) is pleased to announce the 2015 recipients of its annual awards presented to individuals or teams for significant contributions to the mineral exploration and development industry. The AME BC Awards Celebration of Excellence Gala will be held on January 27 during the Mineral Exploration Roundup 2016 conference. Tickets are available through registration at www.amebc.ca/roundup.

This year's recipients are as follows:

Peter Bradshaw, Ron Britten and Ursula Mowat are the recipients of the **H.H. "Spud" Huestis Award** for excellence in prospecting and mineral exploration in recognition of their efforts in identifying and commencing development of a new type of nickel deposit exemplified by the Decar project in central British Columbia. It is rare to identify a new deposit type and even more unusual to then become the first to significantly advance one.

Ursula, after graduating from the University of British Columbia with a B.Sc. in Geology and then working for several mining companies, turned to prospecting in the Mt. Sydney Williams ultramafic complex. She acquired claims over the complex in 1986, which she optioned to a series of junior companies exploring for gold over the next decade. Aware of the potential for chromite, nickel and platinum group elements, Ursula noted that petrographic PhD work from Peter Whittaker indicated the presence of a naturally occurring nickel-iron alloy called awaruite in several samples. She recognized the possibility for a bulk tonnage, low-grade nickel deposit and convinced Peter Bradshaw and Ron Britten of First Point Minerals Corp to joint venture her property. Exploration work in 1997 conducted by Ursula and funded by First Point was unsuccessful in recognizing awaruite mineralization, and because of the low price of nickel, the option was dropped in the following spring.

In 2007, with a dramatic rise in the price of nickel, First Point, at this stage a two-man company, decided to review all historical and new data on awaruite and acquire claims over several awaruite-bearing ultramafic bodies in northern British Columbia including the Decar nickel project near Mt. Sydney Williams. Peter, a geologist/geochemist, had worked for the Royal School of Mines, Barringer Research, Placer Development and Orvana Minerals Corp., while Ron, an economic geologist, had worked with Sumitomo, Esso Minerals and Homestake.

A major problem was how to analyze for the percent of total nickel that was present as awaruite. Peter studied how nickel was partitioned between silicates, sulphides and awaruite to develop a unique geochemical method to determine the nickel-in-alloy. In 2008, while working on the Josephine complex in Oregon, Peter found a method described in a thesis and also a different method in a Japanese reference to that thesis that purported to be selective extractions for awaruite. The former proved unusable and the latter extracted both awaruite and nickel sulphides, although not nickel in silicates. First Point funded successful research at Acme Labs to develop a suitable method which led to the

selective extraction being certified by an independent third party. This extraction procedure proved to be both an effective and valuable tool for analyzing both rock and stream sediments during the initial exploration work and other properties. Peter also guided metallurgical work on how to concentrate awaruite as well as the assessment of Decar's economic potential.

Ron designed exploration programs for awaruite and focused on understanding the controls of awaruite abundance and grain size distribution throughout the Mt. Sydney Williams complex. His leadership led to the definition of nickel mineralized zones for this new type of deposit, the first potentially economic resource identified around the globe. Cliffs Natural Resources, a major company, optioned the Decar property from First Point in 2009.

From the beginning, First Point was interested in exploring for awaruite nickel deposits at a number of different locations. The company's efforts have produced a working model that permits the identification of prospective areas for awaruite formation along with the tools required to identify and undertake preliminary evaluation of these occurrences. The results of this work can be applied worldwide in similar geological settings.

Rob Pease and Scott Shellhaas are the recipients of the **E.A. Scholz Award** for excellence in mine development. These individuals led two separate teams that were responsible for advancing the Mount Milligan copper-gold project in central BC through development to production from 2006 through 2013.

Mount Milligan was discovered in the late 1980s but the path to production began in earnest in 2002 when Rob Pease, working for owner Placer Dome, initiated a metallurgical drilling campaign. Studies continued through 2005 specifically focusing on metal recoveries, one of the most challenging fields of study for the project, at a time when commodity prices were significantly improving. Placer Dome began to consider the project a high priority for development, but momentum stumbled in late 2005 when Barrick Gold and Goldcorp made a joint offer to acquire Placer Dome. Undeterred, in early 2006, Rob set out on his own and was part of a group of investors that arranged to purchase Mount Milligan and other Canadian projects for \$120 million in preferred shares of a company that would become Terrane Metals.

Terrane, with Rob as president, resumed the drive of Mount Milligan toward development. From mid-2006 through early 2010, Terrane completed several feasibility related studies on the project. The project received federal and provincial environmental assessment approvals while concurrently achieving significant progress with First Nations and local communities. Then in mid-2010, corporate events once again provided change as Terrane was acquired by Thompson Creek Metals for approximately \$700 million in cash and shares. Scott was chief operating officer of Thompson Creek Metals and the following year he was appointed president.

Scott immediately took the torch from Rob to push the project onward with Thompson Creek raising construction capital through selling gold streams from Mount Milligan, as well as completing equity and debt financing. This facilitated the team led by Scott to construct the project and complete all necessary operational readiness matters. Of significant note is the safety performance during mine construction which recorded over 5 million hours worked without a lost time incident. The mine commenced operations and ramp-up in late 2013. The Mount Milligan project is built to the highest standards and has reserves for more than 22 years. Significant additional defined resources have the potential to add several more years of mine life. The succession of teams led by Rob and then Scott were critical in bringing this project to fruition. Both of these men were successful because of a team effort, by teams which they formed, directed and led. They are consummate professionals with vision, capacity and drive, the type of people that make things happen no matter how tough the challenge.

Clive Johnson is the recipient of the **Murray Pezim Award** for perseverance and success in financing mineral exploration. He is recognized for his roles in financing mineral exploration companies including Eldorado Gold Corp., Bema Gold Corp. and B2Gold Corp. As a founder of Eldorado and throughout his management roles with Bema and B2Gold, Clive has raised approximately \$5 billion through a combination of equity and debt financings. The capital raised has helped turn Bema and B2Gold from junior explorers to intermediate mining companies and in the process helped to create thousands of jobs that brought wealth to numerous communities worldwide. This is a truly amazing accomplishment regardless of timing in the commodity cycle and as such distinguishes Clive as a worthy recipient of the award.

Clive's formal education began at university, but soon took an alternative path to running a bush crew staking claims in the Yukon. After a few years Clive got together with a few partners and started a mining company, which through an amalgamation with several other companies became Bema Gold Corp. Upon this amalgamation Clive was appointed president and CEO and never looked back. Some of his early work at Bema included raising capital for the construction of the Champagne Mine in Idaho during 1989, in very tough market conditions. Clive was successful in raising \$5 million for this purpose and the mine was completed and operational the next year. Bema subsequently continued to finance, develop mines and fund exploration in Canada, Chile, Venezuela, South Africa and Russia. Some of the more notable projects in which Bema was involved with included Refugio, Cerro Casale and Julietta. This culminated in Bema securing the high grade Kupol gold project for which it raised over \$500 million from 2003 to 2006 and built the mine a full year ahead of schedule. Later in 2006, Bema was acquired by Kinross for \$3.5 billion.

Following his involvement with Bema, Clive managed to keep most of his team together and co-founded B2Gold Corp. in 2007, for which they raised \$100 million in an IPO. A year later B2Gold made a takeover offer on a distressed company, Central Sun Mining, with assets in Nicaragua. B2Gold subsequently developed the La Libertad and Limon mines in Nicaragua, which formed the backbone of cash flows that allowed the company to make the subsequent acquisitions of Aurix Gold and CGA Mining, in addition to the associated investments required to develop the assets they acquired.

Clive's perseverance and success in financing mineral exploration has enabled him to build two multibillion dollar gold mining companies from scratch, while operating in regions that would test the best-run businesses. Clive and his team's legacy continues with B2Gold Corp., which currently operates major exploration, development and mining projects in Nicaragua, the Philippines, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Mali and Colombia.

Eira Thomas is the recipient of the **Hugo Dummett Diamond Award**. Eira has been an integral player in the Canadian diamond industry for over 20 years, starting with her well-documented involvement in the discovery and evaluation of the Diavik kimberlites in 1994. Her involvement and leadership within the Canadian diamond sector extends well beyond that transformative discovery. Eira has made a number of significant contributions toward diamond exploration, discovery and mine development throughout her career – not the least of which is the elevated profile of Canadian diamonds and the diamond mining industry.

Through her various industry associations that include Aber Resources (now Dominion Diamond Corporation), Navigator Exploration, Stornoway Diamond Corporation, Lucara Diamond Corporation and North Arrow Minerals, Eira has been involved with the evaluation and development of kimberlites in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Greenland and Botswana. This work has resulted in the discovery of four new kimberlite fields (three in Nunavut and one in

Saskatchewan), and numerous additional kimberlites in at least six other areas in the NWT, Nunavut, Ontario and West Greenland.

Eira has truly seen the sector from all angles; she started working in the field as an exploration geologist, and then moved on to manage exploration programs as VP Exploration, promote and finance diamond exploration and development as President and CEO and co-found two diamond companies, Stornoway and Lucara. She has actively pursued, championed and financed early grassroots exploration, kimberlite discovery and evaluation and diamond mine development in Canada and internationally. The ultimate objective for mineral exploration is the successful development of a mine, and Eira has been involved in the evaluation and development of at least three diamond mines including Diavik (NWT), Renard (Quebec) and Karowe (Botswana).

Eira is well known throughout the worldwide diamond community by geoscientists, project developers, marketers, cutters and investors. She is often sought after for her broad perspective on the diamond industry and, through numerous media reports over the years, has presented a positive voice for responsible and sustainable mineral development. She has been a tireless supporter and spokesperson of the mining industry through her involvement in numerous advocacy groups and regulatory advisory bodies.

To be truly successful in exploration one needs to first pick the right project, understand how geoscience can be used to build truly predictive models to recognize ore controls and have a willingness to work tirelessly to achieve one's goals. **Joe Piekenbrock and Rick Van Nieuwenhuysen** understand these principles and it is the reason that they have had career long successes. It is for these achievements that they are being recognized as the recipients of **Colin Spence Award** for excellence in global exploration. More specifically, they are being acknowledged for their highly successful application of predictive geologic modelling techniques in Alaska - to defining and significantly expanding the Donlin Creek gold deposit in western Alaska and the Arctic copper-zinc-silver massive sulphide deposit in the Ambler Mining District as well as discovering and exploring of the high-grade Bornite copper deposit.

Joe attended the University of Colorado in his home state before earning a Master of Science in Geology from the University of Arizona in 1983. After graduation he joined Cominco American and the very successful regional Alaskan exploration team whose discoveries are numerous including the giant Pebble porphyry copper deposit. Joe left Cominco in the late 1980s and operated as a consultant in Nevada during the Great Basin gold boom before joining up with Rick at Placer Dome. In 1996, Joe left Placer Dome to start Brett Resources and build a portfolio of exploration properties in Peru and Central America. Returning to the USA in 1999, he joined Rick as vice president exploration for NovaGold in 2001 and subsequently NovaCopper in 2012.

Rick grew up in Alaska and undertook undergraduate studies in Belgium and Michigan before obtaining a Master of Science in Geology from the University of Arizona in 1980. His professional career started with Anaconda Copper before working for Freeport-McMoRan, Atlas Precious Metals, Nautilus Exploration and Placer Dome. In 1998, Rick became CEO of NovaGold Resources Inc. and over 14 years built NovaGold into a junior powerhouse through the advancement of Donlin Creek, Galore Creek in northwestern BC, and the Arctic and Bornite projects in the Ambler district. In 2012, the Ambler assets were spun out to NovaCopper Inc. with Rick as CEO.

To be associated with any significant mineral development is a career achievement for most geoscientists but what makes this duo remarkable is that the Donlin, Ambler, and Galore Creek projects are truly world class yet are diverse in geologic terrane and deposit type. As well, Joe and Rick understood that meaningful community and indigenous relationships had to be incorporated in their

exploration plans and they set about forging groundbreaking agreements with the Calista Native Corporation and NANA Regional Corp. in Alaska and the Tahltan Nation in British Columbia.

Patrick McAndless is the recipient of the **Robert R. Hedley Award** for excellence in social and environmental responsibility. Patrick is recognized for his passion and talent in mentoring young professionals and his commitment to advancing the human capital of the mineral exploration and mining sector. His efforts have positively impacted the lives of hundreds of individuals and communities in BC, across Canada and beyond.

Through his long career as an exploration geologist, much of it spent as the vice president of exploration for Imperial Metals, Patrick recognized that the cyclical nature of the industry can create wide gaps in talent and make it difficult for recent graduates and young professionals to build a career. For more than a decade he has given presentations at more than 100 universities and colleges on opportunities in mineral exploration and mining. At each location he takes on several new students whom he mentors in their education and careers and to whom he provides guidance in resume building and networking so they are prepared to enter the industry. Many of these students comment on his passion for people, geoscience, exploration and for social and environmental excellence in the mining industry.

In addition to mentoring individuals, Patrick serves on the industry advisory committees for both Northwest Community College's School of Exploration and Mining and BCIT's Department of Mineral Exploration and Mining. In this capacity, he provides his expertise and technical support as an exploration geologist to ensure students are learning the most up-to-date and relevant topics for today's industry.

Patrick is tireless in advocating for the mineral exploration and mining industry and for growing the next generation of industry professionals. His ability to recognize the potential of young people and mentor them to achieve that potential is commendable and in the words of one of those young people, he is deserving of this award simply for the depth of his humanity.

The late **Lise Tompson-Cyr** is the recipient of the **David Barr Award** for excellence in leadership and innovation in mineral exploration health and safety. Lise had an intimate knowledge of the mineral exploration work environment across Canada beginning in 1980 when she moved from Quebec to become a bush camp cook in the northern Yukon, married a helicopter pilot and spent the next 10 years working in exploration camps. In 1984 she started up a company, 1984 Inc. to staff and run bush camps. An important part of the services provided was training and supplying of first aid attendants. In 2006, Lise was instrumental in forming a Cambridge Bay, Nunavut-based joint venture called 1984 Nunavut Ltd. This majority Inuit-owned company became a leader in the training of a mainly aboriginal workforce to supply mineral exploration camps in northern Canada.

Lise was also an enthusiastic and inspiring member of the health and safety committees of both the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) (2006 – 2014) and AME BC (2004 – 2007). She generously shared her knowledge of the exploration environment in Canada whether it was to do with camp management, drilling, helicopters or personnel safety in camp. As her company worked in most provinces and territories of Canada, she had an excellent knowledge about jurisdictional variation in regulations. She had an immense knowledge of accidents, their causes and prevention. She made a significant contribution to the 2006 revision of AME BC's *Safety Guidelines for Mineral Exploration in Western Canada* and provided support when the PDAC e3 Plus *Health and Safety in Exploration Toolkit* was written. She was also instrumental in developing the Canadian Mineral Exploration Health & Safety Survey.

Lise Tompson-Cyr's drive created a successful company which had safety of mineral exploration personnel engrained in its culture because of her leadership.

The **Gold Pan Award** is presented to **Lindsay Bottomer**. Lindsay has served AME BC for more than 20 years, and began volunteering for the Association soon after his arrival from Australia in 1989 as a member of Murray Pezim's Prime Capital Corp. Lindsay served on the Board of Directors from 1993 through 2005 through a challenging period for mineral exploration in British Columbia and a gradual upswing. After serving as Vice President from 1995 to 1998 (during which time he was also the technical session chair for the Roundup Committee), he was President of the Association from 1998 to 2000. Lindsay has also dedicated his time to a number of AME BC committees over the years including Finance & Audit (on which he has served for nearly 20 years), Geoscience, Honourary Advisory Board Liaison and Roundup Organizing committees. Lindsay has also been active with APEGBC.

The **Frank Woodside Past Presidents and Chairs Award** is presented to three individuals.

- **Jerry Asp** is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Aboriginal people through the creation of new business opportunities and development of skills and capacity in the community. Jerry is an experienced consultant and negotiator, and one of his early achievements was the first significant impact and benefits agreements for a mine in British Columbia. In 2010, Jerry was awarded the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada's Skookum Jim Award which recognizes Aboriginal achievements in the mineral industry and is vice-president of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association. From 2006 to 2009, Jerry was a member of AME BC's Stepping Stone Editorial Board.
- **Barry Price** is president of B.J. Price Geological Consultants, is recognized as BC's leading nephrite jade geoscientist and is also active in copper-gold porphyry exploration. Barry has extensive experience in valuation of exploration properties and BC government expropriations. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from the University of British Columbia and is one of the leaders behind a fundraising campaign to revitalize the UBC Geological Field School near Oliver, BC.
- **Hans Smit** specializes in guiding advanced exploration projects through resource estimations, economic evaluations and permitting. He is president of the Minerals North board of directors and has been involved on many boards and committees as a mineral exploration representative. As former VP exploration for Grayd Resource Corp., Hans played an instrumental role in the discovery and advancement of the La India project in Sonora, Mexico, which entered production in 2014. Hans served on the AME BC Board of Directors from 1999 through 2007; during this time he also served on the AME BC Land Use Committee.

The **AME BC Outreach Fund** recipients are as follows:

- **Britannia Mine Museum** is granted \$5,800 towards supporting the museum's education programs, which in 2015 accommodated 11,500 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. More specifically, the 2016 program will be focused on evaluating and updating the *What Uses Are Minerals to Me* program and the newly established *Sea to Sky Geotour* program as coordinated with Don Ross Secondary School in Squamish. A new initiative will be developed to showcase specific metals in various minerals and in our water resources. This exhibit is scheduled for display from March to August of 2016. Also, a classroom/learning zone has now been completed at the museum where students will have hands-on experience with minerals, rocks, and metal specimens. The Museum has also recently received an impressive collection of hydrothermal black smoker chimney specimens from the Juan De Fuca Ridge. The specimens will, in the near

future, be showcased as an exciting display to demonstrate how these underwater hydrothermal events related to the formation of the Britannia copper orebodies.

- The **Centre of Training Excellence in Mining** (CTEM) is granted \$4,600 for costs related to coordination and production of the second edition of *BC Career Pathways Guidebook: Mining Careers*. CTEM was created in 2013 with the aims of providing British Columbians access to education and training programs specifically focused on careers in the mineral exploration and mining industries. A well-illustrated and informative guidebook was prepared and distributed in 2014 with the objective of communicating to prospective students, jobseekers, and the general public of opportunities in prospecting, exploration and development, operations and reclamation projects in BC. In order to further advance the public's appreciation and understanding of BC's mineral exploration and mining industries and their related career opportunities, CTEM is planning to update and produce an enhanced version of the guidebook. It is anticipated that this edition will provide new perspectives and information on trades, career paths, and education programs. It is also hoped to distribute the second edition to a broader BC audience including Aboriginal and remote communities.
- **MineralsEd** is granted \$9,600 for coordinating the *Kids and Rocks* hands-on classroom workshop in 2016 for children and students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 in the lower mainland schools of BC. The main objective of this program is to introduce children to the basic properties of various rocks and minerals and how they are utilized to benefit our lives. The kids are very interested, curious, and eager to learn about our earth and its materials. They are provided with a bag of about 25 rocks and minerals, a hand lens, a hardness kit, streak plate, magnet, and flashlight to experience and learn the basic physical properties of their specimens. As the children advance, they are introduced to how our daily lives are dependent on earth's non-renewable resources. In 2015, the funding grant provided for the hands-on workshop to 25 classes that totalled 548 children. This *Kids and Rocks Project* is an important stepping stone in the foundation and future of our mineral exploration industry.

About AME BC:

AME BC is the lead association for the mineral exploration and development industry based in British Columbia. Established in 1912, AME BC represents, advocates, protects and promotes the interests of thousands of members who are engaged in mineral exploration and development in BC and throughout the world. AME BC encourages a safe, economically strong and environmentally responsible industry by providing clear initiatives, policies, events and tools to support its membership.

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For further information and to register as accredited media for Roundup 2016, please contact Jonathan Buchanan, Director, Communications & Public Affairs, AME BC, at 604.630.3923 or jbuchanan@amebc.ca.