

AME AWARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

AME H.H. “SPUD” HUESTIS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROSPECTING & MINERAL EXPLORATION IN BC AND/OR YUKON

Jack Milton and the Fireweed Metals Team are the recipients of the 2023 AME H.H. “Spud” Huestis Award for applying a combination of progressive and innovative prospecting techniques and geoscientific technologies that led to the discovery of Boundary West and the expansion of significant mineral resources at the Macmillan Pass (“Macpass”) Project, Yukon, Canada.

Milton and the Fireweed team combined high-resolution ground gravity and LiDAR surveys with extensive mapping, detailed core logging and meticulous geological interpretation to discover Boundary West, which includes the best Zn-Pb-Ag intercepts drilled at Macmillan Pass to date. Hole NB23-007 intersected 118 m of 15.1% zinc, 2.8% lead, and 85.8 g/t silver, and 82.5 m of 11.9%, zinc 2.2% lead and 81.2 g/t silver.

Milton and the Fireweed team have embraced new geological concepts and have adopted technology at early-stages of development to use in mineral exploration, ranging from core scanning technologies, directional drilling, machine learning, and drones, to trials of emerging geophysical methods such as passive seismic and muon tomography surveys. Fireweed have deployed these technologies within a robust geological framework defined by traditional methods and supported by several years of boots-on-the-ground bedrock mapping, stratigraphy, paleontology, surficial mapping, and prospecting.

Milton is described as an “inspirational mentor to young geoscientists,” and the Fireweed team supports and collaborates with academia and the wider geoscience community to advance and evolve the understanding of sediment hosted base metal deposits and the use of new technology in exploration. In doing so, Fireweed have partnered with industry, government, and academia as participants within the Digital Technology and ScaleAI Supercluster programs to develop new tools for the exploration environment.

In recognition of their approach to the discovery and enhancement of zinc-lead-silver mineral resources at Macpass, AME is honoured to present Jack Milton and the Fireweed Metals Team with the prestigious AME H.H. “Spud” Huestis Award.

**AME MURRAY PEZIM AWARD
FOR PERSEVERANCE & SUCCESS IN FINANCING MINERAL EXPLORATION**

The **Victoria Gold Finance Team – Sean Harvey, John McConnell, Marty Rendall** - is recognized as the 2023 AME Murray Pezim Award recipients for their perseverance in financing the construction of the largest gold mine in Yukon history, the Eagle Gold Mine, Yukon, Canada

As our industry has evolved so have financing packages. The Victoria Gold team explored every possible financing option for the Eagle Mine. The global financial community was suspect of this north-of-60 heap leach operation.

The perseverance of this team led to a unique financing package of \$505 million in early 2018 that was a unique combination of equipment financing, project debt, equity raising, a 5% NSR royalty, warrants, and gold call op-ons. Despite some initial obstacles, the team approached Orion Mine Finance, Osisko Royalties and CAT Finance and negotiated negotiated financing package that was innovative and that worked for VGCX. This package required seven credit/loan agreements, six inter-creditor agreements, two equity subscriptions and volumes of collateral documentation.

The team has built strong fundamental relationships with the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nations and the Yukon Government. Without such strong relationships, no debt and equity or royalty provider would have financed the project. One nominator commented that they, “pretty much did the impossible.”

In recognition of their perseverance through adversity, the relationships they have established and maintained, and solid technical work, Sean Harvey, John McConnell, and Marty Rendall are recognized with the prestigious AME Murray Pezim Award for securing financing to build and operate the largest heap leach gold mine in Canadian history through a combination of unique and unprecedented financing tools.

AME ROBERT R. HEDLEY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Lynda Smithard of McCue Engineering Contractors is the 2023 AME Robert R. Hedley Award recipient for Excellence in Social and Environmental Responsibility for leadership in water and wastewater treatment, for her commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in the mining industry, and for being a strong voice in support of ethical mining.

Ms. Smithard is a Professional Environmental Engineer and Chief Operating Officer at McCue Engineering Contractors and is responsible for overseeing all engineering work completed by the team. She was instrumental in the development of both “Tips for Water and Wastewater,” a program designed to train Indigenous people to become mine water treatment plant operators, and PANAQUA water and wastewater systems, which were developed specifically for mine sites.

Ms. Smithard has volunteered her time to support numerous campaigns promoting the social and economic benefits of mining to communities, including for the Mining Association of BC, the Association for Mineral Exploration, and the Mining Suppliers Association of British Columbia’s “One Province, One Economy” and “Redefining Mining” campaigns. Lynda was selected as an ambassador for both campaigns and was featured on posters, videos and social media in support of diversity and environmental protection in the mining industry.

Ms. Smithard also represented BC Mining Suppliers at three “Mining Day at the Legislature” events at the Parliament Buildings in Victoria, BC, and met with members of the BC Provincial government to discuss the role of Mining in British Columbia. She carried the message: “British Columbians should be proud that we offer responsibly sourced minerals. Maybe the processes aren’t perfect, but the industry is committed to working safely, developing meaningful indigenous relationships and protecting the environment.”

One of her nominators commented: “In the mineral exploration and mining industry it is a difficult job for engineers and scientists to speak up and speak out about the value of our industry to the whole of British Columbia and Canada. I commend Lynda on her efforts as a spokesperson for the “One Province, One Economy” campaign.”

Another said: “Being able to combine her past water treatment experience with McCue in developing a program for Indigenous people to become trained and certified in water treatment is demonstrative of an individual who has chosen to think outside of the box to move the dial forward in the realm of social responsibility.”

Lynda serves on the Board of Directors for the Centre of Training Excellence in Mining (CTEM) and is a Competency Assessor for Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

AME INNOVATION AWARD FOR INNOVATIONS BENEFICIAL TO MINERAL EXPLORERS

John McGaughey of Mira Geoscience is recognized with the 2023 AME Innovation Award for leading the development of an open-format data structure called GEOH5, on open-source documented, public, easy-to-use, vendor-neutral, and permanently accessible means of storing and disseminating models, data, and metadata.

GEOH5 avoids complex and costly manual workarounds to share data and models among mutually noninteroperable systems, imposing costs as well as potential data loss and error introduction. The result is a loss of productivity, poorer decision-making, and dissatisfaction with proprietary systems.

John and Mira Geoscience have worked very closely and in partnership with mineral exploration and mining companies (from majors to mid-tiers and juniors) and organizations (from geological surveys and governments across the world to academic institutions) to support the industry and the advancement of technology above and beyond his own commercial interest.

In combination with GEOH5Py and Geoscience ANALYST, GEOH5 provides a convenient and free mechanism for creating and sharing projects as well as immediately visualizing the results of Python modelling and data processing routines in the context of other data and model elements. Among other benefits, this allows researchers to focus on the development of new methods rather than the creation of data structures, user interfaces, and visualization systems to support their work.

John and the Mira Geoscience team have provided many lectures, technical presentations, short courses and workshops at no cost to help people embrace the latest technology that can support a more sustainable and responsible mineral exploration and mining industry. They are also well-known as subject matter experts in geophysics, structural geology, 3D modelling, the application of data science and machine learning to mineral exploration, data management, geotechnical hazard assessment, among other areas of expertise.

AME SPECIAL TRIBUTE AWARD

Scott Gifford (deceased) is being acknowledged with a Special Tribute from AME for his vision and dedication as a prospector and explorationist who could see the deposit-scale, property-scale, district-scale and regional-scale significance of epithermal gold-silver and porphyry copper-gold mineralization in the Toodoggone district and kept exploration of the Toodoggone Camp alive and robust during times of slow exploration and mining activity and challenging market conditions.

Scott Gifford was an extremely intelligent, diligent, persistent, and passionate prospector. Unfortunately, he passed away on June 30th, 2018, before his hard work and dedication to his craft could be fully realized. He was president of Guardsmen Resources Inc., a private mineral exploration company based in Langley, British Columbia, that he founded in 1989. Scott was also president of Mountainside Exploration Management Inc., a private exploration services company that operated for approximately 30 years.

Under Scott's guidance, Guardsmen staked, optioned to other companies and/or directly explored many mineral properties in BC. Chief among these were the Lawyers and Ranch properties (now sold) located in the Toodoggone Camp in North-Central BC. The company still owns the Deer Horn, Zinc Bay, and Dome North properties south of Smithers and the Yanks Peak property near Wells.

Scott understood the potential of the former Lawyers Mine property as well as that of the Ranch property just north of the Toodoggone River. He aggressively staked the area as claims lapsed following the closure of the mine and the withdrawal of exploration companies from the Toodoggone Camp in the late 1990s/early 2000s. The resulting claim blocks consolidated entire precious metal vein systems under one owner.

His belief was that the Toodoggone Camp still held considerable potential. He understood that previous work had tested some of the precious metal vein systems to relatively shallow depths and that other prospects and showings had not been adequately evaluated. In addition, he felt that the considerable number of narrow veins previously identified on each property should be re-assessed for their bulk mineable potential as epithermal gold-silver deposits. This included the low-sulphidation epithermal mineralization at Lawyers and the high-sulphidation epithermal mineralization (and potential porphyry copper-gold mineralization) at Ranch.

The impact of Scott's belief in the potential of the Toodoggone and his considerable efforts to see his perspective come to fruition were unfortunately undone by his failing health through 2017 and early 2018. He was able to observe the documents that outlined the sale of the Lawyers property to Benchmark Metals in June of 2018, but was too weak to sign them.

Scott was extremely passionate about his prospecting craft. He was also very open and accommodating to those who worked with and for him. Scott was a strong advocate of mineral exploration in British Columbia. He was forward-looking, always planning the 'next steps' for each project. When times were particularly difficult, he was known to re-mortgage his home to provide funds to conduct the fieldwork necessary to retain significant mineral claims.

AME OUTREACH EDUCATION FUND

Britannia Mine Museum and **MineralsEd** are each granted \$10,000 to support the public's appreciation and understanding of BC's mineral exploration and development industry through the advancement of public education and community programs.

The funds will support **MineralsEd** to deliver their Junior Geologist classroom workshops for students in Grades 4 to 7, virtually and in-person in 2024. Since 2017, MineralsEd has delivered Junior Geologist to over 3,000 students in BC schools.

MineralsEd's Junior Geologist workshop provides a hands-on learning experience for the students and is a valuable support for teachers. The Partner-Teachers and workshop presenters, Andrea Eisler and Wanda Pickell, love introducing rocks to young learners, and enjoy sparking student's curiosity and encouraging their engagement as they explore these natural materials. In 2024, they will be joined by MineralsEd's first full-time Partner-Teacher Derrick Midwinter. This addition will allow MineralsEd to support even more teachers and students.

Britannia Mine Museum is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Education Partner, providing unique, entertaining and memorable curriculum-based educational experiences that consider the relevance and impact of resource management and geologic exploration.

AME Education Outreach Funding will assist with the support of the Museum's earth science programming. In recent years, the fund has supported event days and school and public programming. Earth science will be central to the theming of the museum's exhibitions and programs.

Britannia Mine Museum will focus on earth science in its programming shift because Earth Materials is a Grade 5 curriculum Big Idea that blends well with BMM's existing site, resources and assets. As the site of a mine that has undergone significant remediation, BMM is uniquely positioned to interpret the methods and impacts of mineral exploration.

AME HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

AME DAVID BARR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION IN MINERAL EXPLORATION HEALTH AND SAFETY

Galore Creek Mining Corporation, the operator for a 50 / 50 partnership between Teck Resources Limited and Newmont Corporation, is recognized for its innovative approach to aviation safety. The Galore Creek Project is a large, high-grade copper-gold deposit in Tahltan Territory, with the potential to add important new critical mineral production in BC.

Due to the nature of the Galore Creek Project site, with the deposit and main camp in a location accessible only by air, extensive helicopter support is required. An aviation safety group was implemented in 2019, and a comprehensive program following Basic Aviation Risk Standards (BARS) was developed to meet the challenges of safely conducting studies and field activities to support the advancement and development of the project. As the project advances, so do procedures, and the Galore Creek Project team has also initiated a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAS) Standard Operating Procedure (to guide the collection of drone data alongside the project's helicopter and fixed-wing aviation programs.

The implementation of this approach has led to more than 11,000 hours of flight with no reportable incidents over the past five years, with the team recently achieving 1 million hours worked without a lost time incident. The 2023 field season saw an average of 180 passenger movements per day in state-of-the-art equipment, with highly experienced pilots, engineers, and aviation advisors. This program facilitated 20,000 metres of drilling, access road safety improvements, environmental baseline studies, geophysical surveys and test pitting, and support of a helicopter accessible 200-person camp for a five-month period.

Safety is one pillar of Galore Creek's approach to responsible resource development. Galore Creek signed a Participation Agreement with the Tahltan Nation in 2006 and continues to implement this Agreement, including providing employment and business opportunities. There are approximately 15 Tahltan-owned or partnered businesses working at the Galore Creek Project during the field season including contractors such as Bear Dog Aviation, a Tahltan partnership with Mustang Helicopters that has been integral to the successful implementation of the aviation safety program.

Galore Creek Mining Corporation has demonstrated the possibilities of exploring safely in remote terrain; David Barr, the exploration manager at Galore Creek for Kennco Explorations sixty years ago, would be proud.

PAST PRESIDENTS AND CHAIRS OF AME RECOMMENDATION

AME FRANK WOODSIDE GOLD PAN AWARD

Gerry Carlson first volunteered for AME (then known as the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines or “the Chamber”) in 1978 shortly after he moved to Vancouver to head Anaconda’s Canadian exploration program. He ran and taught at the Chamber’s popular Prospecting School for over 20 years.

Being involved with The Chamber and attending the Cordilleran Geology and Exploration Roundup conference was a wonderful opportunity for him to mix with and learn from senior industry members and mentors. Since then, Gerry has enjoyed a career spanning over 50 years in mineral exploration with a focus on Yukon, Alaska, British Columbia, western US, and Mexico, mainly in executive roles for junior exploration companies, including Gulf International Minerals, Copper Ridge Explorations, La Teko Resources, and Pacific Ridge Exploration.

Throughout this career, Gerry has been a staunch supporter of AME, and a strong proponent for public education and working with government to ensure a reasonable regulatory environment for mineral exploration and access to land, while also providing strong guidance to help the organization evolve and grow in line with changing socioeconomic and regulatory landscape of BC.

Highlights of Gerry’s contributions to AME also include being Chair of the Education Committee from 1987 to 1990 volunteer President in 1994 and 1995, and Roundup co-chair in 1997 and the successful Pathways 98 conference. He has also served as Chair of the Finance, Awards and Land Use Committees. Gerry more recently has been on the AME Member and Public Outreach Committee as Chair of the Old-timers’ Subcommittee and organizer of the Old-timers’ Lunch at the AME Roundup conference.

Over this time, Gerry has extended this support and professionalism to several other organizations, including the Society of Economic Geologists and SEG Canada Foundation, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Geological Association of Canada and the Britannia Mine Museum Society.

The Board of Directors and Past Presidents and Past Chairs of AME are pleased to honour one of their peers with the Frank Woodside Gold Pan Award