

# Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

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## QUARTZ RECLAMATION PRACTICES AWARD

### EAGLE PLAINS RESOURCES LTD.

The Rusty Springs silver-lead-zinc property, located north of Dawson City, was first discovered in 1975 and was explored by several companies from 1975 through to 1986. A winter road and airstrip were constructed in 1978, and an all weather airstrip constructed in 1983.

In 1994, the property was transferred to Eagle Plains Resources. Eagle Plains conducted several exploration programs, which included diamond drilling and trenching. Each of these programs has included a major component of environmental clean-up and reclamation. The company, through good management practices, has steadily cleaned up the legacy of the 1975 through 1986 exploration.

In 2005, the company removed over 100 old fuel drums, and up to 2000 lbs of steel rods and various metal pieces, an old jeep, many plastic buckets and other debris from around drill sites. The crew cleaned up the old camp and burned the wood, tidied up the road and airstrip. They then cleaned up their drill sites and camp site. Every backhaul flight removed waste (Fig. 1). They also recovered a rod sloop and Longyear 38 Frame that had been abandoned for over 20 years.

Eagle Plains is a very worthy recipient of this award!



**Figure 1.** View of the airstrip at Rusty Springs post reclamation.

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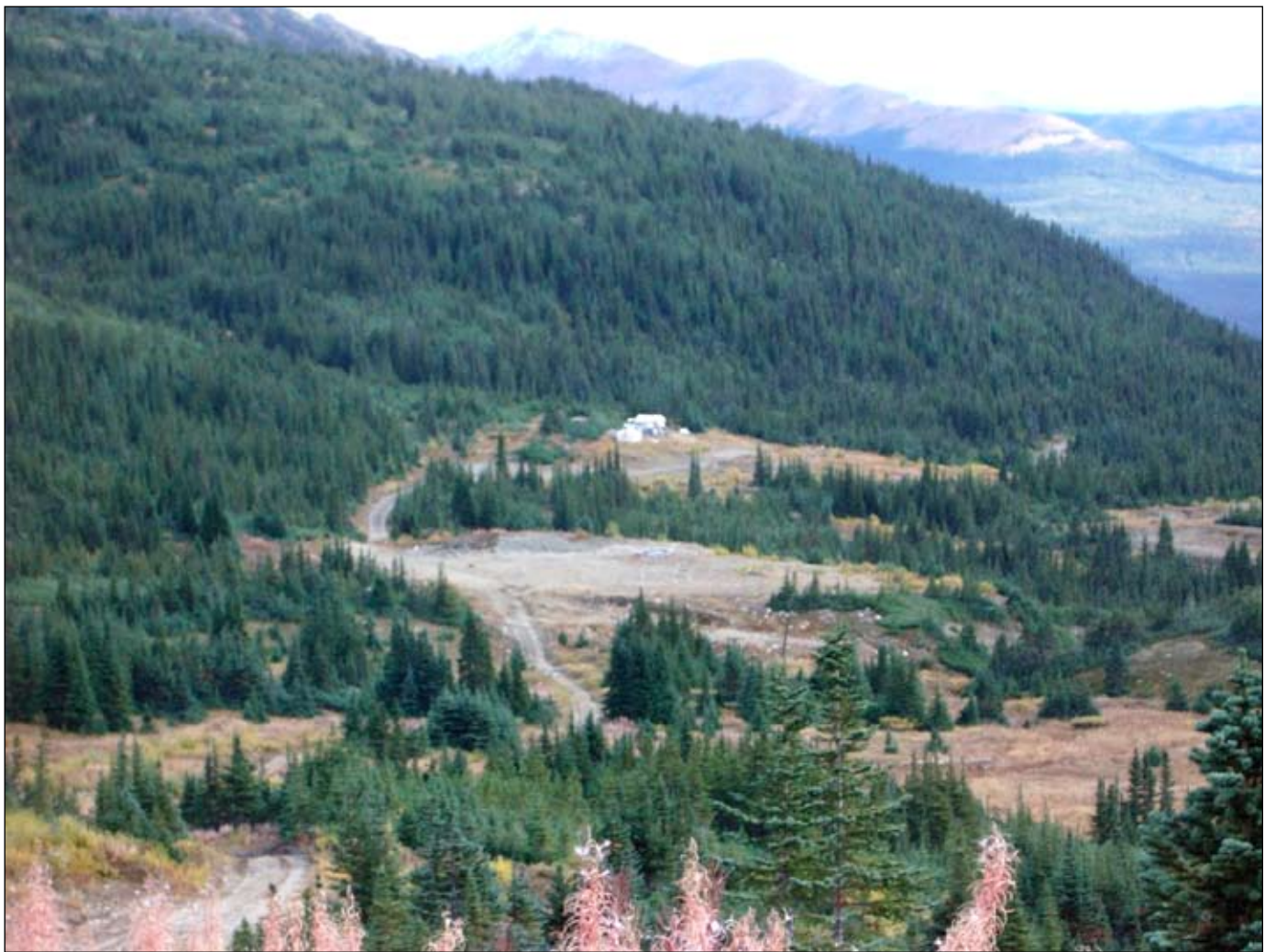
***Honourable Mention: Strategic Metals Ltd.***

**Strategic Metals Ltd.** is a Vancouver-based company doing grassroots exploration on the Logtung property, near Rancheria, in southeastern Yukon.

The site has seen activity since the 1970s, and the legacy of those years was apparent. Strategic Metals has been cleaning up the site for several years (Fig. 2). In 2004, they removed 300 45-gallon drums, part of a bulk sample left

on site. Many of these drums suffered water damage and were spilling their contents. They were stacked on pallets that were rotting. The drums, drum lids and metal bandings were crushed and removed to the Whitehorse landfill or recycled. The plastic liners were removed from site and the pallets burned.

Due to the efforts of the Strategic Metals crew, the site is now safer and far more pristine at no public cost.



**Figure 2.** Logtung after years of cleanup by Strategic Metals.

## PLACER RECLAMATION PRACTICES AWARD

### GIMLEX ENTERPRISES LTD.

**Dr. Jim Christie and family** operated as **Gimlex Enterprises Ltd.** on Dominion Creek in the Klondike area from 1996 until 2004, mining a large portion of the wide valley bottom, a short distance upstream from the confluence with Sulphur Creek.

Old mine cuts have been sloped to shallow grades, creating natural looking ponds with vegetation growing right up to the water (Fig. 3). These ponds are already providing seasonal waterfowl habitat.

Tailing piles and other waste piles were contoured to low relief and stockpiled overburden was spread throughout

the area, which has resulted in rapid natural revegetation over wide areas.

In addition to the seasonal reclamation work done during the term of their water licence, a considerable amount of work was done to create a system of stable ditches. These provide ongoing control of surface drainage and prevent erosion of reclaimed areas.

Gimlex Enterprises is a great model for this industry and for ongoing reclamation.



**Figure 3.** View of Gimlex Enterprises' property on Dominion Creek. Notice the naturally revegetating ponds and contoured slopes.

***Honourable Mention: 365334 Alberta Ltd.***

Operator **Ross Edenoste of A-1 Cats**, has mined on Dominion Creek in the Dawson Mining district since 2002.

Since the start of operations, A-1 Cats management have worked to ensure that reclamation is addressed on an ongoing basis. Stripping and tailings piles are kept in low relief (Fig. 4). Organic overburden is stockpiled for spreading on contoured areas to facilitate rapid re-vegetation.

The camp was set up near mine cuts from a previous lessee of the property. These cuts had been reclaimed to the standard required prior to Mining Land Use.

A-1 Cats is reclaiming the property to present-day standards. Areas have been re-contoured, organic material has been spread and in some areas seeded, leaving an area of ponds with low-relief accesses that will facilitate their use by wildlife at cessation of mining. Areas that may never have re-vegetated are now flourishing.

The work A-1 Cats has done on the previously mined portion of the property has improved and accelerated the reclamation potential of this site.



**Figure 4.** Steep structures have been recontoured to low-relief angles, and vegetation is flourishing from the addition of overburden spread on the surface.

## RÉSUMÉ

Le prix Robert E. Leckie pour des pratiques exemplaires en matière d'exploration du quartz et de restauration minière a été décerné en 2005 à Eagle Plains Resources Ltd. pour la remise en état de sa propriété de Rusty Springs, au nord de la ville de Dawson (Yukon). Découverte en 1975, la minéralisation de Rusty Springs a ensuite été explorée par plusieurs sociétés de 1975 à 1986. Une route d'hiver et une piste d'atterrissage ont été aménagées en 1978, de même qu'une piste d'atterrissage tous temps en 1983. La propriété a été cédée à Eagle Plains Resources en 1994 qui a mené plusieurs programmes d'exploration au cours des années suivantes, comprenant notamment des forages au diamant et l'excavation de tranchées. Chacun des programmes de la société comportait un important volet de dépollution environnementale et de remise en état, corrigeant une situation héritée des activités d'exploration menées de 1975 à 1986. En 2005, plus de 100 vieux barils de carburant et jusqu'à 2000 lbs (1000 kg) de tiges d'acier ainsi que diverses pièces de métal, une vieille jeep, de nombreux seaux de plastique et d'autres débris ont été retirés des sites de forage. Une équipe a nettoyé l'ancien camp, brûlé les débris de bois et remis en ordre la route et la piste d'atterrissage. Elle a ensuite nettoyé les sites de forage et le camp minier de la société. Des déchets étaient évacués lors de chaque vol de retour. La société a également récupéré un support de transport de tiges ainsi qu'un dispositif de forage Longyear 38 abandonné depuis plus de 20 ans. La société Eagle Plains Resources Ltd. mérite très certainement d'être récipiendaire de ce prix.

Le prix Robert E. Leckie pour des pratiques exemplaires en matière de restauration de placers a été décerné en 2005 à Gimlex Entreprises Ltd. pour la remise en état de son exploitation de placer, au sud de la ville de Dawson. M. Jim Christie (Ph. D.) et sa famille ont exploité sous le nom de Gimlex Entreprises Ltd., de 1996 à 2004, une grande partie du large fond de la vallée du ruisseau Dominion, à une courte distance vers l'amont de sa confluence avec le ruisseau Sulphur. Les pentes des anciennes tailles de l'exploitation minière ont été atténuées, créant des étangs d'apparence naturelle où la végétation atteint maintenant le bord de l'eau. Ces étangs constituent déjà des habitats saisonniers pour la sauvagine. On a réduit la hauteur des amas de stériles et d'autres déchets, et on a étendu les tas de morts-terrains sur l'ensemble de la zone, ce qui a permis une végétalisation naturelle et rapide sur de grandes superficies. En plus des travaux saisonniers de restauration exécutés pendant la durée du permis d'exploitation hydraulique, des travaux considérables ont été exécutés pour créer un réseau de fossés stables qui assurent un contrôle continu du drainage superficiel et préviennent l'érosion des zones remises en état. La société Gimlex Entreprises Ltd. représente un modèle à suivre pour l'industrie minière et pour la restauration permanente des sites.

