

**YUKON**  
**EXPLORATION**  
**& GEOLOGY**  
**OVERVIEW**  
**2008**

Edited by  
L.H. Weston, L.R. Blackburn and  
L.L. Lewis

Yukon Geological Survey  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Government of Yukon

Published under the authority of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon  
<http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca>

Printed in Whitehorse, Yukon, 2009.

Publié avec l'autorisation du ministre de l'Énergie, des Mines et des Ressources du gouvernement du Yukon  
<http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca>

Imprimé à Whitehorse (Yukon) en 2009.

© Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon

ISSN 1718-8334 (print version), 1718-8342 (on-line version)

This, and other Yukon Geological Survey publications, may be obtained from:

Geoscience Information and Sales  
Yukon Geological Survey  
102-300 Main Street  
Box 2703 (K-102)  
Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2C6  
phone (867) 667-5200, fax (867) 667-3198, e-mail [geosales@gov.yk.ca](mailto:geosales@gov.yk.ca)  
Visit the Yukon Geological Survey website at [www.geology.gov.yk.ca](http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca)

In referring to this publication, please use the following citation:  
Yukon Exploration and Geology Overview 2008. L.H. Weston, L.R. Blackburn and L.L. Lewis (eds.),  
2009. Yukon Geological Survey, 58 p.

This overview is an excerpt of Yukon Exploration and Geology 2008. References to 'this volume' in the overview refer to Yukon Exploration and Geology 2008.

This document is available in colour on the Yukon Geological Survey website.

Production by K-L Services, Whitehorse, Yukon.

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH: The mega-tors of Britton Ridge, east of Wellesley Lake, southwest Yukon. Photo by Lesley Dampier.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND MINING HIGHLIGHTS

Yukon Hardrock Mining, Development and Exploration Overview 2008 M. Burke, L.L. Lewis and S. Traynor.....	2
Yukon Placer Mining Overview, 2008 W. LeBarge.....	39
Yukon oil and gas overview B. Adilman.....	43
Yukon Mining Incentives Program, 2008 S. Traynor.....	51
Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Reclamation Practices J. St. Amand.....	55



# Prospector J.P. Ross

1948 TO 2008

***John Peter Ross, known among friends as J.P., died suddenly at his home in Whitehorse, Yukon in early May, 2008.***

J.P. was a Yukon resident for nearly 35 years. He was a dedicated member of the Yukon Prospectors' Association, where, at the time of his death, he was vice-president.

Before coming to the Yukon, he graduated from McGill University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and a minor in biology. He began his Yukon career at the United Keno Hill Mines' mill at Elsa where he worked on five different occasions.

Inquisitive, he began exploring the northland as soon as he set foot in the Yukon. He read prodigiously and interviewed prospectors and miners who sparked his interest in pursuing independent mineral prospecting as a primary vocation in 1985. A smart business person, his new-found career began to flourish. In 1995, the Yukon Prospectors' Association selected John Peter Ross as Prospector of the Year. The award, based on a prospector's successes in uncovering new mineral discoveries, recognized his good fortune in finding the Killermun Lake gold property in the Ruby Range-Aishihik area in the vicinity of Haines Junction.

J.P. liked being out alone where there were no pressures, and he enjoyed listening to the sounds of silence. "There's a certain music in nature — the wind, rock avalanches, bears at 3 a.m., gurgling streams and wind in the grass. Even the stars seem to have a sound to them."

He will be missed by his prospecting friends. Besides his vast interest and knowledge on an eclectic array of subjects, J.P. shared his information willingly, indeed an extraordinary trait for a person operating in the highly competitive prospecting and exploration business where most people keep their secrets close to their vest.

J.P. was definitely his own person. His staunch individualism earned him rite of passage into Jim Robb's illustrious Colourful Five Percent club.

*Jane Gaffin*



# George W. Gilbert

1925 TO 2008

***George Gilbert passed away in Whitehorse, February 14, 2008, at the age of 82. He was a man of many professions, all of them self-taught.***

George was a geologist, hard-rock miner, prospector, naturalist, as well as a government inspector of mining, fisheries and land use. He was a published author and self-described rock-hound. He counted amongst his friends not only regular folk, but those who served in high office such as Ed Schreyer, Governor General of Canada; James Smith, Commissioner of Yukon; and various heads of state and scientific organizations from across the world.

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1934 George moved with his family to the Cariboo mining town of Wells when it was just being established. He joined the Air Force near the end of World War II and served two years, returning to work at the Cariboo Gold Quartz (CGQ) mine in 1946. George eventually became the manager of the CGQ mine.

In 1967, when the CGQ mine ceased operations, George moved to Whitehorse to take on the position of Newmont Mining's resident geologist. While with Newmont, George and his prospecting crews explored many grassroots properties and mineral deposits in Yukon, including those in the Kluane Ranges and the Bonnet Plume area.

In 1970, George joined Keno Hill Exploration Ltd. and managed several exploration programs for three years before joining the Geology Division of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the mid-1970s. He eventually became the Chief Mining Inspector of the Placer Mining Division, where he remained until he retired in 1989. He maintained his contacts with the mining industry and former colleagues throughout his retirement, even attending the annual Yukon Geoscience Forum two months before his passing.

George was a loving father and friend and will be greatly missed by all of his family, his colleagues and friends, and anyone who ever had the pleasure of his company. *Bill LeBarge*



*George inspecting claims.  
(Photo by Robin Armour)*



*George prospecting.  
(Photo by Robin Armour)*



*Part of Ishpa Glacier, British Columbia  
(Courtesy of "Kicked by a dead moose" (G. Gilbert))*

