



YUKON
EXPLORATION
& GEOLOGY

2011

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Edited by
K.E. MacFarlane and P.J. Sack

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Front cover photograph: Canex Placer, 1980 underground portal into the XY deposit, a Zn-Pb SEDEX deposit in east Yukon. The property is currently being explored by the Selwyn-Chihong joint venture. Photo by Lee Pigage.

PREFACE

Yukon Exploration and Geology (YEG) and the Yukon Exploration and Geology Overview continue to be the main publications of the Yukon Geological Survey (Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon). Individual YEG papers, with colour images, are available in digital format only and can be downloaded from our website. The YEG Overview is available in print and digital formats.

YEG 2011 contains up-to-date information on mining and mineral exploration activity, studies by industry, and results of recent geological field studies. Information in this volume comes from prospectors, exploration and government geologists, mining companies and students who are willing to contribute to public geoscience for the benefit of the scientific community, general public, and mineral and petroleum industries of Yukon. Their efforts are appreciated.

While I didn't have a co-editor for the overview this year, I do thank Patrick Sack for acting as my YEG co-editor. As always, appreciation is extended to Yukon Geological Survey staff who take the time to edit earlier versions of manuscripts; this year I thank Carolyn Relf, Jeff Bond, Maurice Colpron, Lee Pigage and Steve Israel. Finally, thanks to Bailey Staffen for lending 'another set of eyes'.

Sherry Tyrner of the Queen's Printer ensured that the printing process went smoothly.

We welcome any input or suggestions that you may have to improve future YEG publications. Please contact me at (867) 667-8519, or by e-mail at karen.macfarlane@gov.yk.ca.

Karen MacFarlane

PETER RISBY IN MEMORIUM



Pete Risby was a long time prospector in Yukon with a lust for life and a heart for adventure. Born in Kansas in 1931, his family moved to Alberta when he was four years old. After serving in the military in the early 1950s, his first mining related job was as a heavy equipment operator with Cassiar Asbestos Corp. in northern British Columbia. His interest in minerals and prospecting blossomed while working at the Cassiar asbestos mine and set the course for the rest of his days.

Pete staked his first of many claims in 1964, in Yukon. His years of exploration garnered plenty of wild stories. In the early days, Pete had the wherewithal to jump out of a helicopter seconds before it crashed into a mountain; he was declared dead before the medevac flight arrived to collect him. During one summer on the Indian River, he unknowingly sluiced an unmarked grave and was later shocked to find a body in his sluice box.

Pete was the first person to seriously evaluate the placer gold potential of the Indian River area. He started placer mining the Indian River area in 1981. Indian River had minimal historic workings and has since become one of the highest gold-producing drainages in Yukon. Pete was voted the Yukon's placer miner of the year in 1996 and inducted into the Yukon Prospector's Hall of Fame in 1996. The same year that he and his wife Ruth Ann were awarded Mr. and Mrs. Miner by the Klondike Placer Mining Association. They were also instrumental in establishing the Yukon-Indian River Scholarship to promote Yukon placer mining.

One of a dying breed of bush savvy, hard-working, energetic prospectors, Pete was at the Mining Recorders office in Whitehorse poring over maps and planning his next exploration season mere months before he died.

Sadly, Pete succumbed to cancer on February 27, 2011.

Lara Lewis





Yukon Geological Survey staff: (front row, left to right) Tiffani Fraser, Sarah Laxton, Lara Lewis, Patrick Sack, Panya Lipovsky and Charlie Roots; (back row, left to right) Don Murphy, Nikolett Kovacs, Aubrey Sicotte, Maurice Colpron, Steve Israel, Carolyn Relf, Lee Pigage, Jeff Bond, Debbie Throssell and Robert Deklerk.

Missing from photo: Sue Roy, Bailey Staffen, Karen MacFarlane, Derek Torgerson, Johann Slam, Olwyn Bruce and Kristen Kennedy.



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