

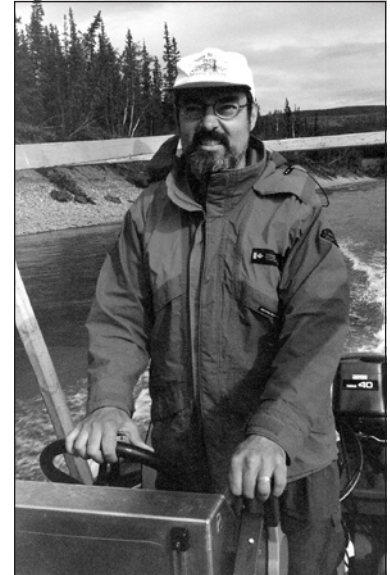
Robert E. Leckie Awards for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

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The Robert E. Leckie Awards were established in 1999 by the Mineral Resources Directorate of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (DIAND) to recognize outstanding reclamation practices on Quartz and Placer claims in Yukon. The award is named after the late Robert (Bob) Leckie, a mining inspector with DIAND, who passed away in November, 1999. Bob was a strong advocate of both the mining industry and the environment. Following devolution of Mineral Resources Directorate in April, 2003, the responsibility for bestowing the Leckie awards was transferred to the Yukon Department of Energy Mines and Resources, Mineral Resources Branch.

The awards are given out yearly at the Yukon Geoscience Forum and results are also published in the Yukon Exploration and Geology annual reports. This designation is granted to mining operators who take the initiative to carry out exceptional reclamation and site restoration efforts, such as adding features to the land that notably enhance the area and local community, or by returning mined land to a condition that is structurally sound and also aesthetically pleasing.



Robert Leckie

2003 award presented to Frank and Karen Hawker, Sixtymile River

FRANK AND KAREN HAWKER have been mining in the Sixtymile River area near Dawson since 1993, and as the Hawkers consider site restoration part of the mining process, they have consistently surpassed reclamation requirements (see also Miners of the Year Awards, 2006, McDougall, this volume).

Mining this previously dredged area brought organic materials, which were previously buried under coarser material, back to the surface to be redistributed over recontoured tailings piles to promote natural regeneration. While contouring, the area was scarified to encourage retention of water and airborne seeds. The mined area supports rapid natural revegetation and has been converted from an almost barren landscape of dredge tailings and old abandoned cuts to vegetated rolling hills.



Frank and Karen Hawker's operation on a bench of the Sixtymile River in 2003. Reclaimed land and a stabilized stream channel are visible in the lower part of the photo.

2004 award presented to John Alton and Martin Knutson, Henry Gulch Placers, Last Chance Creek



Henry Gulch Placers' mining operation on Last Chance Creek in 2004, with contoured and reclaimed hydraulic tailings visible in the background.

JOHN ALTON AND MARTIN KNUTSON have been mining together for 22 years through the Klondike area and have consistently maintained high standards of reclamation.

In July 2000, Alton and Knutson relocated operations to Last Chance Creek — a site which has been repeatedly disturbed since 1896. Here, White Channel gravels had been hydraulically mined from the hill above, and formed a fan up to 18 m deep in some areas. Previous mining on the right-limit hillside resulted in

a slump falling into Last Chance Creek, and old drains, still in place, posed a safety hazard. The creek was completely destabilized by these effects and as such contributed to sedimentation in Hunker Creek.

To remediate this, massive amounts of White Channel gravels were moved to the left limit to form low-relief rolling hills, and covered with overburden to ensure swift natural revegetation. Old mine pits were reclaimed and stabilized, and a pond was built to catch material from old workings above the site to further protect the creek. The old drains have been removed, the area restored and the creek has been stabilized. As well, a new, safer road system is in place. Reclamation efforts on Last Chance Creek illustrate the diligence and efforts of Knutson and Alton in restoring old mine works successfully.

2005 award presented to Gimlex Enterprises Ltd., Dominion Creek



A view of Gimlex Enterprises Ltd.'s Dominion Creek property, after site reclamation and restoration in 2005.

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. Reclamation works included sloping old mining cuts to lower grades, creating natural-looking ponds, and promoting revegetation on slopes adjacent to the ponds. These ponds are already providing seasonal waterfowl habitat. Tailing piles and waste piles were recontoured and stockpiled overburden was spread through the area, which resulted in rapid natural revegetation.

In addition to the seasonal reclamation work done during the term of their water license, 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 of reliable reclamation practices in the placer mining industry.

2006 award presented to 365334 Alberta Ltd. (A-1 Cats), Dominion Creek

365334 ALBERTA LIMITED, operating as A-1 Cats, has been mining on Dominion Creek in the Dawson Mining district since 2002. A-1 Cats focuses on addressing reclamation on an ongoing basis and, as such, works are completed in a timely, economical and efficient manner.

The use of organic material has enhanced revegetation and although seeding is not required in areas where regeneration naturally occurs, A-1 Cats has shown promising results in seeding trials. A-1 Cats' efforts in restoring previous disturbances have resulted in smoother topography and have aided in stabilizing the site.

The entire property has been reclaimed to 2006 standards and A-1 Cats' Best Management Practices have become a credit to the placer mining industry.



Aerial view of A-1 Cats' Dominion Creek property in 2006. Contoured tailings and reclaimed areas adjacent to active mining show signs of regrowth of vegetation.

