

# The Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

*Hugh Copland<sup>1</sup>*

*Mining Land Use Division, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada*

In 1999, the Mineral Resources Directorate of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development awarded the first Robert E. Leckie awards for outstanding reclamation practices in both quartz and placer mining. The award goes to companies or individuals who go beyond legislated reclamation requirements, pioneer new reclamation techniques in the north, and show leadership in enhancing the environment.

The award is proudly named after Robert (Bob) Leckie who passed away in November, 1999 after a two-year battle with cancer.

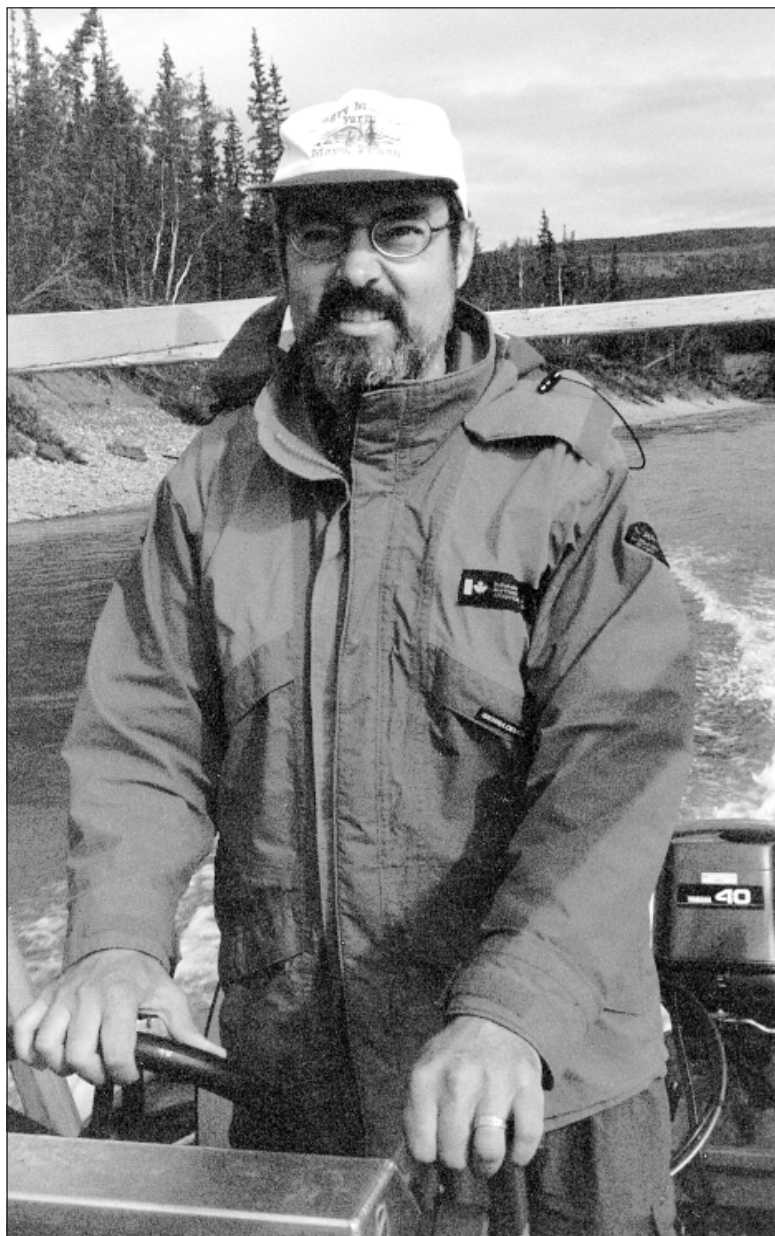
Bob was born in Calgary and, in 1984, graduated from the University of Calgary with a Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences. He joined DIAND Mineral Resources in 1987 as a mining inspector in Mayo and remained in that position until his death.

During his time in Mayo, Bob was influential in educating area miners in the benefits of thoughtful reclamation practices as they applied to placer mining. Bob was also instrumental in the implementation of research projects aimed at defining acceptable standards for placer mining discharge. His forward thinking and valuable contributions to the department and the industry will be remembered in this annual award which will go to both a quartz mining or exploration program and a placer mining operation for outstanding reclamation practices.

The award winners are chosen by a committee comprised of representatives from DIAND Mineral Resources, Yukon Government Economic Development, Yukon Chamber of Mines, and Klondike Placer Miners Association.

The 1999 award winners are:

- *Quartz Exploration and Mining:* Viceroy Minerals Corporation
- *Placer Mining:* Al Dendys (Tic Exploration)



*Robert E. Leckie*

<sup>1</sup>coplandh@inac.gc.ca

## VICEROY MINERALS CORPORATION, BREWERY CREEK MINE

The Brewery Creek Mine is located approximately 30 km east of Dawson City. The property was discovered in 1987, and went into production in 1996 as the northernmost heap leach operation in Canada. The mine is characterized by a series of oxidized deposits that are being mined in a sequential fashion. Early in the mine planning it was recognized that it would be advantageous to utilize mined-out pits as waste rock disposal facilities for the next pit under development. The first pit to be mined out in 1996 and early 1997 was the Canadian pit. This was subsequently filled in 1997 with waste from the Kokanee pit. After re-contouring of the waste material, vegetation test plots were immediately planted on the dump to determine the best seed mixes to use in subsequent reclamation.

The Canadian pit reclamation has now been successfully reclaimed. The photo below illustrates how well the pit/waste dump blends into the existing topography. Viceroy Minerals Corporation has continued to have a good relationship with the community and contributes to training courses, provides tours of the mine and runs programs for children on site to learn about reclamation.

Honourable mentions in the Quartz Exploration Mining category were:

- Expatriate Resources Ltd., Breakaway and Macmillan Pass properties,
- Cash Resources Ltd., Killermun Lake property,
- Pamicon Developments Ltd., Bonnet Plume River properties,
- Placer Dome Inc., Howard's pass Properties.



*Brewery Creek Mine - Canadian pit reclamation*



## AL DENDYS, TIC EXPLORATION

Al Dendys has been mining on Gladstone Creek (flows into the eastern shore of Kluane Lake) since 1992, using two floating trommel wash plants. These plants operate almost 23 hours a day, processing a large volume of pay material. The large-scale disturbance resulting from an operation of this size has been mitigated by excellent restoration work. The most impressive characteristic of this work is how quickly it follows extraction of the ore.

Immediately following work in any given area, the tailings have been levelled, re-contoured and covered with fine material stockpiled during preparation of the mining cut. To date, this is

the finest example of progressive placer mining restoration work in the Whitehorse Mining District.

Honourable mentions in the Placer Mining category were:

- Norm Ross, Ross Mining Company, Dominion Creek,
- Frank Hawker, Indian River Operation,
- David McBirney, Indian River Operation,
- Doug Busat, T.D. Oilfields Services Ltd., Hunker Creek,
- George Lewans, Seymour Creek,
- Teck Corporation, Gold Run Creek.



*Tic Exploration Operation - Gladstone Creek*

