

## Robert E. Leckie Awards for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

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Pelletier, K., 2001. Robert E. Leckie Awards for Outstanding Reclamation Practices. *In: Yukon Exploration and Geology 2000*, D.S. Emond and L.H. Weston (eds.), Exploration and Geological Services Division, Yukon, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, p. 49-50.

The Robert E. Leckie Awards for outstanding reclamation practices in the Yukon, both for quartz and placer exploration or mining, were first established in November, 1999. The two awards are given for reclamation and site restoration efforts that go well beyond what is required by law, either by reclaiming land for which there is no obligation to reclaim, adding features to the land that have enhanced the area and local community, or returning mined land to a condition that is not only physically sound but aesthetically pleasing. The awards were named after the late Robert (Bob) Leckie, a former mining inspector for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, who passed away in November, 1999 (see Yukon Exploration and Geology 1999).

The 2000 Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Reclamation Practices in Quartz Exploration and Mining goes to Cash Resources Ltd. The company has been active in the Yukon since 1985 and has long been recognized as a leader in environmental stewardship and in community involvement. The company has continuously contributed to the knowledge base regarding successful reclamation methods in the north through hosting site visits and giving presentations at reclamation workshops.



**Figure 1.** Walking a backhoe across the tundra to the Killer Gold property, Killerman Lake area.

Cash Resources Ltd. is recognized for using exceptional operational and restoration procedures during the Killer Gold exploration project near Killerman Lake in 1995. This was prior to being required to do so by the Yukon Mining Land Use Regulations which came into effect in 1998. Killerman Lake is located approximately 45 km northwest of Haines Junction and the Kluane National Park.

From the onset of the project, local First Nations were involved in the planning and implementation stages. Access was achieved by walking the backhoe over a tundra landscape for a distance of 26 km while leaving a minimal trace (Fig. 1). The timing of the project was designed to specifically avoid conflicts with sheep lambing, caribou migration and the local outfitter. In addition, the company co-funded a study with the Yukon Government on the effects of mineral exploration activities in areas of sheep habitat. During the exploration activity, drill pads were constructed by hand, the drill was moved by helicopter to minimize ground disturbance, and drill moves were scheduled to avoid bedding times for local sheep. Trenches were buried as soon as sampling was completed, and natural re-vegetation has been successful in the challenging tundra environment.

Grew Creek Ventures Ltd. is the recipient of the 2000 Award for Outstanding Placer Mining Reclamation Practices. When Dave Marsters of Grew Creek Ventures Ltd. moved to Hunker Creek in 1998, the ground he occupied had previously been extensively mined since the turn of the century, but had never been reclaimed. Tailings from dredging and small-scale bulldozer mining, as well as old equipment and waste oil products, were found everywhere. In 1999 and 2000, the company accomplished 1.2 km of excellent restoration work, reclaiming disturbances from current mining activities as well as all previous mining activities. All tailings from the current and past operations were levelled, contoured and covered with 'black muck' to insure rapid natural re-vegetation (Fig. 2). Stream restoration at the site is exceptional and was accomplished well beyond the requirement by permit conditions. Small isolated ponds were created to enhance local habitat.

Congratulations to Cash Resources Ltd. and Grew Creek Ventures Ltd., the 2000 recipients of the Robert E. Leckie Reclamation Awards in the Yukon.



**Figure 2.** Contoured tailings at Hunker Creek are covered with 'black muck' to enhance natural revegetation.