

# Robert E. Leckie Awards for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

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The fourth annual Robert E. Leckie Awards for outstanding reclamation practices were presented in Whitehorse, November, 2002. The awards for quartz and placer exploration and 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 sound but aesthetically pleasing. The award is named after the late Robert (Bob) Leckie who passed away in November, 1999 (see YEG, 1999).

## QUARTZ MINING RECLAMATION

The 2002 Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Reclamation Practices in Quartz Exploration and Mining was awarded to Viceroy Minerals Corporation (Fig. 1). During its years of operation the reclamation work carried out at the Brewery Creek mine has been methodical and extensive. Approximately 63.2 hectares were reclaimed in 2001 alone.

The landscape throughout the mined-out area has been left in a stable and aesthetically pleasing form that blends in well with the surrounding topography. Growth media has been spread wherever it was available and much of the disturbed areas have been seeded. The bulk of the reclamation work was accomplished in 2001 and 2002.



**Figure 1.** Brewery Creek landscape from the air.

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The Brewery Creek mine provides an excellent example of how modern mining techniques practiced by responsible companies have changed the face of the industry.

An honourable mention was given to Eagle Plains Resources for their clean-up efforts at the Rusty Springs property (Fig. 2). The removal of old fuel drums not only cleaned up this wilderness area, but helped prevent contamination of the surrounding environment.

### PLACER MINING RECLAMATION

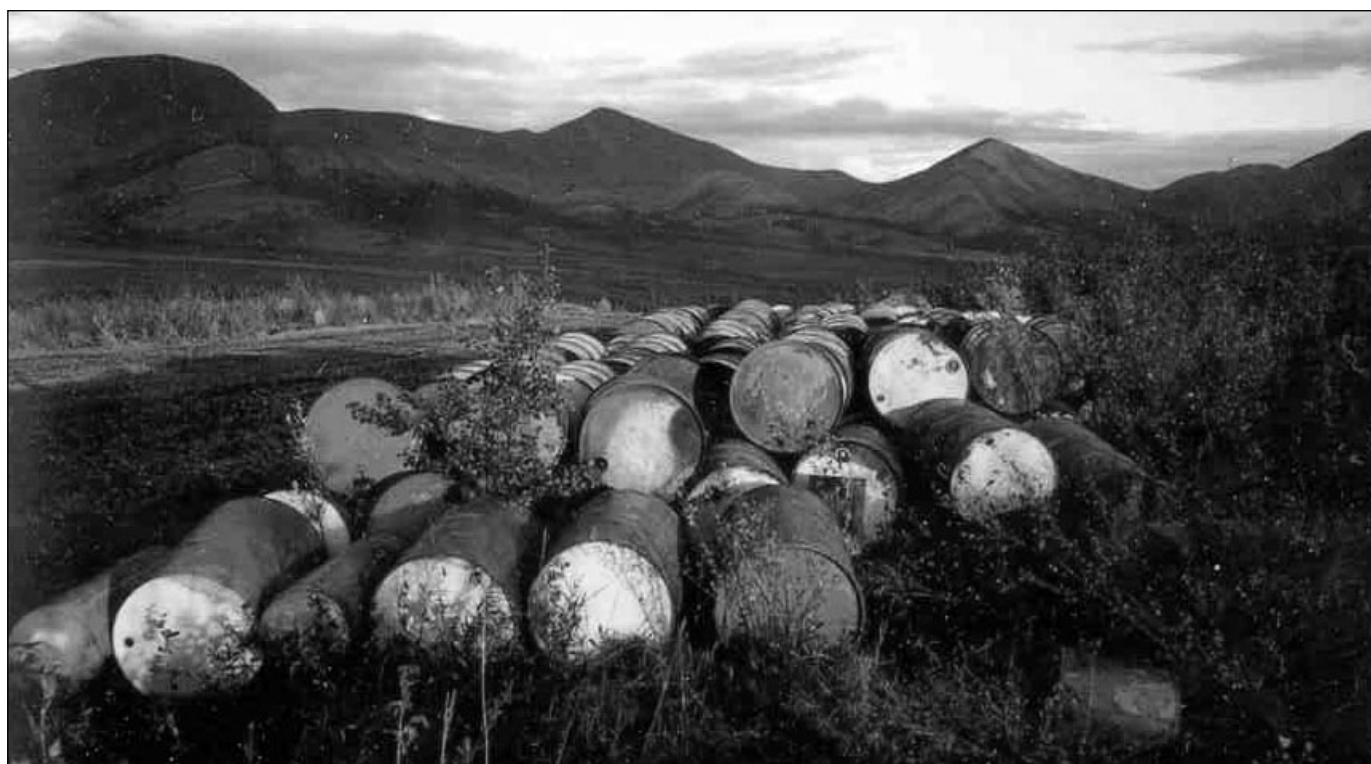
David McBurney is the recipient of the 2002 Award for Outstanding Placer Mining Reclamation Practices. David McBurney has been placer mining on the Indian River for the last 10 years. His water licence allows the leave strip on one bank of the Indian River to be mined and reclaimed, with requirements for special fish habitat features to be provided. Mr. McBurney has met all of the conditions in his water licence and has even sacrificed small portions of mineable ground in order to preserve some stands of large trees adjacent to the original river

bank (Fig. 3). Mr. McBurney has moved his operation gradually upstream working in an organized and systematic manner. Wherever previous mining disturbances were encountered, Mr. McBurney has reclaimed the old workings along with his own.

Reclamation works completed include the bank and leave strip of the Indian River, according to unique conditions, as well as recontouring and revegetation of mined-out areas. This included mining pits being backfilled and levelled, tailing piles completely flattened and overburden spread evenly over the whole area. Reclamation works have been ongoing and progressive each year.

An honourable mention was given to Frank and Karen Hawker for ongoing mining reclamation in the Sixtymile River area (Fig. 4). The Hawkers' methods emphasize that reclamation can easily follow on the heels of mining and that good planning can lead to the improvement of a site as it is being mined.

Congratulations is extended to all noteworthy recipients of the 2002 Robert E. Leckie Reclamation Awards.



**Figure 2.** Old fuel barrels collected via helicopter from the Rusty Springs property.



**Figure 3.** David McBurney's restored river bank, with large rock armouring along the bank and overburden spread up to the edge.



**Figure 4.** The Hawkers' reclaimed Sixtymile River stream channel and banks.

