



Government of Yukon

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NEWS *release*

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2010 Leckie Award winners demonstrate environmental excellence in mining

WHITEHORSE – The winners of the Robert E. Leckie Award were announced yesterday evening at the 38th annual Geoscience Forum banquet. This year, Strategic Metals Ltd and Mr. Martin Knutson were honoured for their exemplary and innovative quartz and placer reclamation practices.

"Yukon government congratulates this year's recipients of the Leckie Award," Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Patrick Rouble said. "This year's recipients have undertaken extensive reclamation projects and their dedication to Yukon deserves recognition."

Strategic Metals Ltd. was recognized for outstanding quartz reclamation efforts in the Eureka Creek / Black Hills area. Their methods have created habitat for small mammals, enabled protection of wildlife from human predation and created areas for airborne seedlings to be established.

Martin Knutson was recognized for outstanding placer reclamation efforts in an area between the Klondike Highway and the Klondike River adjacent to Bear Creek subdivision. In addition to his standard reclamation efforts, Mr. Knutson cleaned the site of all litter debris, constructed a swimming hole for local residents and created a raised hiking trail which also acts as a berm to ensure the Klondike River will no longer flood the area in spring.

An honourable mention award was given to Steven Johnson for reclamation work at Murphy's Pup area in the Mayo District.

"Reclamation is a key part of the mining cycle," Rouble said. "It is important that we take time to acknowledge companies that show their dedication to mining and the environment by going above and beyond today's reclamation standards."

The Robert E. Leckie Award is given in honour of Robert (Bob) E. Leckie, a Mayo mining inspector and innovator, who was dedicated to the development of progressive land use practices for mining. It is presented annually to honour outstanding reclamation and site restoration efforts. These efforts can include environmental stewardship, social responsibility, or leadership and innovation in reclamation processes. Nominations are reviewed by a selection committee comprised of representatives from government, mining associations and the private sector.

For more information on mining in Yukon visit <http://www.miningyukon.com/>.

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See photo attached.

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Energy Mines and Resources Minister Patrick Rouble presents Doug Eaton, President and CEO of Strategic Minerals the 2010 Leckie Award for outstanding quartz reclamation. Also present is Carl Schulze, President of the Yukon Chamber of Mines.

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