

# TRENCHES

## MINERAL, MINING & EXPLORATION NEWS

### SITE PROFILE: EXCITING TIMES FOR NORTHERN FREEGOLD RESOURCES

Northern Freegold Resources Ltd.



When Bill Harris looks around his company's Freegold Mountain project, he sees both his past and his future. Harris was first brought out to the area as a young boy by his father, who prospected there in the early 1950s. Today, Bill and his partner, Sue Craig, co-founders of Northern Freegold Resources (NFR), carry out advanced exploration in the same area with promising results.

"When my dad and I worked together back then, we would prospect and then option out claims to junior exploration companies," says Bill. "At one point, there were 80 separate companies working in the area that we've now pulled together as one property. Having such a large package of land, 165.8 square kilometers (64 square miles), is part of what gives this project so much potential."

Located northwest of Carmacks, the property has easy road access from Whitehorse via the Klondike Highway and then onto the Freegold Road from Carmacks. NFR's other advantage is its management team, many of whom have a long history in Yukon mining. Sue, for example, first came to Yukon nearly twenty years ago to work as geologist and, later became the project administrator for the Brewery Creek Mine near Dawson City. The company's vice

president of exploration, Cor Coe, was born in Atlin and has worked extensively throughout Yukon.

This use of Yukon-based knowledge and experience continues in the company's exploration activities. Northern Freegold Resources has carried out an ambitious drilling program, spending approximately \$18 million from 2006 through 2008.

"More than two-thirds of our budget is spent in Yukon," says Bill. "We use a long list of Yukon contractors for services and supplies. At least half of our staff are Yukoners and a quarter are members of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. In past years, about 40 per cent of the people working at our camp have been Yukon First Nations people, from staff and management to contractor employees. It's great for us to be able to hire locally and it's also a benefit to Yukon communities."

Northern Freegold has also worked with the Yukon Mine Training Association to provide training for local people in mining-related work such as line cutting, geophysical surveying, prospecting and rock sampling.

"When you have local people working for you, they see how you operate and how you treat the land and environment. It's one of the best ways to show people the kind of company you are," says Sue.

The company's Nucleus Zone has shown the greatest promise and is getting the most drilling this season. Results show high grade gold mineralization, which is attracting attention from elsewhere.



Government of Yukon

*Bottom photo: Core sample from Nucleus Zone of the Freegold Mountain project site.*

"Some of the largest and most reputable companies in the world are checking out Yukon because of our results," says Sue. "Those companies are learning more about Yukon and what a good place it is to invest and explore. That bodes well for the sustainability of Yukon mining in the future."

*Continued on page 4.*

### In this issue...

Site Profile: Northern Freegold Resources

District Profile: Whitehorse Mining Recorder Office

Celebrating Mining and Geology Week

Leckie Award – Call for Nominations

Yukon Mining Statistics

Did You Know?

*Top photo: Trenching at the Nucleus Zone of the Freegold Mountain project site.*

## MINING AND GEOLOGY WEEK - CELEBRATING WITH CONTESTS, FUN AND LOTS OF GREAT PRIZES!

### Did you know...

Did you know that copper is mined in Yukon? Here are a few interesting facts about this Yukon mineral.

- Skarn copper mineralization was first discovered in the Whitehorse area in 1897.
- High-grade ore was mined in the Whitehorse Copper Belt for almost a century until economic ore reserves were depleted in 1982.
- Sherwood Copper has been currently producing copper ore concentrate at the Minto mine since 2007.
- Copper is malleable, ductile and long lasting. Its versatility and durability has earned it the reputation of being "humankind's eternal metal."
- Copper is a better conductor of heat and electricity than any other metal, except silver.
- Zinc alloyed with copper makes brass.
- Tin alloyed with copper makes bronze.
- The average home contains about 181.4 kilograms (400 lbs.) of copper.

*Top photo: EMR Mineral Development Officer Gord Moffatt demonstrates panning for gold to an enthusiastic reception from Dawson City students.*

*Bottom photo: EMR Community Engagement Coordinator Leyla Weston helps Whitehorse students build rock kits.*

This year, Energy, Mines and Resources hosted Mining and Geology Week in partnership with the Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association.

Mining and Geology Week celebrations took place from May 11 to 17 in conjunction with National Mining Week.



Yukon Chamber of Mines

Across Canada, events were held in recognition of the importance of the Canadian mining industry to Canada's economy.

In Yukon, this year's events included:

- Posters, displays and activities in the Elijah Smith Building offering learning opportunities on minerals and the importance of maps and mapping;
- A Yukon wide "Mining Awareness" contest for all ages with gold nuggets, an I-pod, a compass, a GPS unit and more as prizes; and,
- A Yukon wide coloring contest for children age eight and under also with prizes.



Government of Yukon

Aside from contests, representatives from the Yukon Geological Survey, Mineral Resources Branch and Yukon Chamber of Mines coordinated geology and mining outreach programs with school aged children in Carmacks and Dawson City. About 76 Carmacks students and 172 Dawson City students participated in the outreach program.

Kindergarten to grade 12 students listened to interesting geology and mining lectures, made personal rock sample kits, created their own personalized gold flake business cards and panned for gold. Older students and teachers participated in a chance to win lots of prizes while the Chamber of Mines handed out mining activity books to the younger students.

On a national and international level, Yukon's positive mining investment climate continues to attract recognition, interest, and capital for investment. It is expected that in 2009, investment in Yukon mine development will exceed \$200 million, creating jobs and business opportunities for hundreds of Yukon people.

As well, the Yukon continues to be one of 'Canada's Mining Hotspots' with a 5th place ranking in the Fraser Institute's global review of mineral potential and policy best practices.

Now that's reason enough to celebrate!

Special thanks to Lauren Blackburn and Karen MacFarlane from Yukon Geological Survey, Gordon Moffatt from Mineral Resources Branch and Joanne Rice and Elaine Lewis from the Yukon Chamber of Mines along with the Carmacks and Dawson City schools. ■

## DISTRICT PROFILE: WHITEHORSE - YUKON'S TRANSPORTATION AND MINING HUB

Strategically located along the Alaska Highway and at the head of navigation on the Yukon River, as well as being a former terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway, the city of Whitehorse has always been at the heart of Yukon's transportation and mining industries.

Founded in 1900 with the arrival of the railway, the then sparsely populated tent-and-cabin city became the terminal for freight being transferred from railway to riverboat for shipment to Dawson City. For years, Whitehorse connected railhead and riverboat navigation to Dawson City and the Klondike.



Government of Yukon

Then came the construction of the Alaska Highway during World War II which helped maintain and solidify Whitehorse's role as a transportation and communications center. Today, mining, government and tourism have enabled Whitehorse to grow and prosper into a frontier city with all the amenities.

For the area's mineral and mining industries, the Whitehorse Mining Recorder is at the centre of their claim staking activities. When individuals



Government of Yukon

wish to stake an area, it is recommended they first visit the area's Mining Recorder Office where staff provides valuable assistance and current information on staking regulations.

We invite you to meet the Whitehorse Mining Recorder Office's team!

Whitehorse's Mining Recorder is Glenna Southwick who was born and raised in Whitehorse and has

worked in the Mining Recorder's office for over 30 years. Glenna says she "enjoys meeting people and hearing stories from the old timers". One of her most memorable experiences was her encounter with three million dollars worth of gold. At the time, a company came to the Mining Recorder's Office to weigh its gold. "They brought the gold in buckets which were all around the office. The company even requested that we close the office and have armed guard posted in the office to protect the gold!" recalls Glenna. When not weighing gold, Glenna enjoys spending her time outdoors camping, hunting or snowmobiling.

Tori Chislett came to the Yukon looking for work in 1997. She began her career in the minerals industry in Watson Lake's Mining Recorder's Office the same year. She later transferred to the Whitehorse office in 2002. As the Mining Lands Officer, Tori likes being part of the team that regulates responsible mining in the territory. "There are a lot of really intelligent people working in this department and I enjoy learning from them," she says. She claims, with a smile and a laugh, that her most memorable experience has been the implementation of YESAA. Tori enjoys spending her time with her family, animals and garden. She likes to read and "I really like to eat too!"

The Whitehorse Mining Recorder Office's Mining Spatial Database Administrator is Julie Houle. Julie joined the Mineral Resources Branch in 2004 as a GIS technician. A few years later, she switched positions to the Mining and Spatial Database Administrator. Julie has been in the Yukon since 1997. She is originally from Quebec, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in physical geography. Her previous work experience includes being a GIS Mapping Technician with Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the land claims branch and a Mine Technician and Surveyor at Brewery Creek mine. Julie says she enjoys helping her co-workers and clients.

Mining Administration Officer Maxine Lindsay first worked in the Mining Recorder's Office in 1984, "with Glenna, Joanne, Lois, Blake, Mike Fish, Yolanda and Alma to name a few of the oldies," she says. She enjoys working with the clientele which she calls "a real eclectic bunch to say the least", adding that "the Geo's are fun too". When not busy at work, Maxine runs a costume business and keeps busy with her family. "I also enjoy drinking good wine and eating really yummy food!"

Originally from Moscow, Russia, Liudmila LeBarge moved to Whitehorse in 2005. She came to marry her husband, a born and raised Yukoner.

## Yukon Mining Statistics

Here are the Yukon mining statistics for the period of January to June 2009:

- Quartz Claims in Good Standing – 78,945
- Placer Claims in Good Standing – 17,771
- Prospecting Leases in Good Standing – 130
- 34 project proposals were submitted to the YESAA process – 25 placer and 9 quartz projects.
- 14 Mining Land Use authorizations issued to 9 placer and 5 quartz projects.
- 17 projects are still under YESAA review.

*Top photo: Mining Spatial Database Administrator and GIS wizard Julie Houle.*

*Bottom photo: Mining Lands Officer Tori Chislett, Mining Recorder Glenna Southwick and Mining Administrator Officer Maxine Lindsay.*

*Continued on page 4.*

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR OUTSTANDING MINING RECLAMATION PRACTICES

The nomination period is now open for the 2009 Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Quartz and Placer Mining Reclamation Practices.

The annual award is given to quartz exploration companies and placer operators for exceptional reclamation and site restoration efforts including:

- reclaiming land for which there was no obligation to rehabilitate;
- adding features to the land that notably enhanced the area and local community; and/or
- returning mined land to a condition that is not only structurally sound but aesthetically pleasing.

Nominations must be submitted in writing and should include:

- reasons why the operator/company should be considered for the award;
- location of the claim block and name and address of the operator; and
- at least one high quality colour photograph of the reclamation activity.

The nominations will be evaluated by a committee with representatives from the Yukon government, Klondike Placer Miners' Association, the Yukon Chamber of Mines and mining reclamation experts.

The Leckie Awards will be presented to worthy quartz and placer exploration/mining operations

at the annual Yukon Geoscience Forum to be held from November 23 to 26, 2009.

This award was created in 1999 as a tribute to Robert E. Leckie, a mining inspector in Mayo for over a decade, who passed away November 1999. Robert was influential in educating area miners on the benefits of thoughtful reclamation practices



Government of Yukon

and instrumental in initiating research projects to define acceptable placer mining discharge. His forward thinking and valuable contributions made Robert an innovator who promoted planned reclamation, research, and cooperation that benefited both government and industry.

**The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 16, 2009.**

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [www.yukonmining.com](http://www.yukonmining.com) or contact Judy St. Amand at (867) 456-3961 or [leckieaward@gov.yk.ca](mailto:leckieaward@gov.yk.ca). ■

*Right photo: Leader and innovator, the late Robert Leckie was a mining inspector in Mayo for over a decade whose work is honoured through the annual mining reclamation awards bearing his name.*

### SITE PROFILE: EXCITING TIMES FOR NORTHERN FREEGOLD RESOURCES

*Continued from page 1.*

Northern Freegold Resources also sees a promising future for its Freegold Mountain project. "We recognize that we have a major deposit on our hands and a property that might have more than one major deposit," says Bill.

### DISTRICT PROFILE: WHITEHORSE - YUKON'S TRANSPORTATION AND MINING HUB

*Continued from page 3.*

At the time, her knowledge of the Yukon was mostly from Jack London stories which she used to read as a child. As a result, she was unsure if she would like to live in Yukon. But Mila (as she is known) became fascinated with the beauty of this land and the benevolence of its people. It didn't take long for her to adopt the Yukon as her new home. Mila started to work in her current position as a GIS Mapping Technician for Mineral Resources Branch in 2007. Prior to this, she worked

"We plan to continue exploration ourselves for the next couple of years, because we know the property so well and we can advance it more quickly than anyone else. But because we're a junior exploration company, we expect to eventually form a joint venture or find some other way to take this project to the next level. It's definitely a very exciting time for us."

For more information on Northern Freegold Resources, visit [www.northernfreegold.com](http://www.northernfreegold.com). ■

as Water Quality Assistant and GIS Mapping Assistant for Client Services and Inspection. She enjoys her work and appreciates the good working environment and the support of her colleagues.

Also in the Mining Recorder's Office is Terry Anderson, Mining Lands Officer, who is currently on a Temporary Assignment with Client Services & Inspections.

The Whitehorse Mining Recorder's staff is available to assist with all staking-related questions and issues. They can be reached at (867) 667-3190 or 1-800-661-0408 extension 3190. ■

## FROM THE TRENCHES

MINERAL, MINING & EXPLORATION NEWS

Volume 3  
Issue 3  
Fall 2009

This newsletter is produced and published by the Mineral Resources Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon.

For more information or to share your feedback, please contact the Mineral Resources Branch at (867) 667-3163 or [mining@gov.yk.ca](mailto:mining@gov.yk.ca).

Contributors: Gord Moffatt, Elaine Schiman, staff at Whitehorse Mining Recorder Office, Brigitte Parker.

Info sources: [www.nwma.org](http://www.nwma.org), [www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca), Government of Yukon.

Photo credits: Government of Yukon, Karen Pelletier, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Mike Burke, Northern Freegold Resources Ltd.