



NEWS RELEASE

Best Practices in B.C. Mine Reclamation Planning and Closure Showcased at Mine Reclamation Symposium

Kamloops, B.C. – September 20, 2012 – The British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR) presented the 36th annual B.C. Mine Reclamation Awards last night in Kamloops, B.C.

The recipient of the **2012 British Columbia Jake McDonald Annual Mine Reclamation Award** is the **Tsolum River Partnership** for outstanding reclamation achievements at the historic Mount Washington Copper Mine on Vancouver Island. The Tsolum River Partnership has successfully completed large-scale remediation efforts resulting in a dramatic improvement into the water quality of the Tsolum River.

“The Tsolum River Partnership has demonstrated that bringing together provincial and federal agencies, community groups, landowners, industry and non-governmental organizations can produce the synergy required to effectively restore the heavily impacted Tsolum River from metal mining contamination,” said Craig Stewart, outgoing chair of the TRCR. “As a result of their work, the contaminant source at Mount Washington has been controlled, the downstream ecosystem is recovering, and an outreach program is in place. The project has also become a springboard for addressing non-mining related issues in the Tsolum River watershed thereby expanding the partnership’s effectiveness.”

Four other reclamation awards were also presented in various categories.

Metal Mine Reclamation:

Gibraltar Mine, located near Williams Lake, B.C., was awarded for implementing large-scale research trials and taking a forward-looking approach to developing reclamation plans for the mine site.

Sand and Gravel Pit Reclamation:

R.E. Postill and Sons Ltd. and **Coldstream Ranch Ltd.** were recognized for progressive reclamation of the Rosebush gravel pit and improving agricultural land capability at the Coldstream Ranch near Vernon, B.C.

Industrial Mineral Mine Reclamation:

Quinto Technologies Inc. was awarded for thorough site clean-up, closure, and reclamation at the **Lumby Mine**.

Placer Mine Reclamation:

Eli Christiensen was recognized for the reclamation of the Douglas Property near Terrace, B.C. His responsible and conscientious attitude to the business of placer mining sets an example of good practice for placer operations across the province.

In addition to presentation of the Reclamation Awards, the 36th annual Reclamation Symposium hosted a field trip to Inmet Mining Corporation's Samatosum Mine, and two days of reclamation-focused talks.

"We thank our sponsors for assisting in making this year's symposium a success," said Jaimie Dickson, incoming chair of the TRCR. "We extend a special thank you to our field trip sponsors and staff from the Samatosum Mine. The symposium and field trip provide valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge and demonstrate how mining companies implement sustainable reclamation practices at all stages of the mining cycle."



Photo: Presentation of Jake McDonald Annual Mine Reclamation Award to members of Tsolum River Partnership.

About the Technical & Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR):

The TRCR originated, and first became active, in the early 1970s in response to a demonstrated need in the British Columbia mining sector for greater government-industry communication in the area of environmental protection and reclamation. Membership is drawn from industry, provincial and federal government agencies, exploration and mining associations, and universities and colleges. The Committee meets to discuss matters of joint concern and interest, exchange experiences, plan activities, and prioritize research needs. It sponsors the B.C. Mine Reclamation Symposium and studies on reclamation-related issues.

For more information, contact Jaimie Dickson, incoming chair at 250-572-4003 or visit the TRCR website at www.trcr.bc.ca.

Contact Info For British Columbia Jake McDonald Annual Mine Reclamation Award Recipient

John Deniseger, Section Head, Environmental Quality, B.C. Ministry of Environment at John.Deniseger@gov.bc.ca or 250-751-3184