



NEWS RELEASE

AME BC Announces 2008 Award Winners

Industry Leaders to be Recognized at Mineral Exploration Roundup Awards Dinner

Vancouver, B.C. – December 15, 2008 – The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) is pleased to announce the 2008 winners of its prestigious H.H. “Spud” Huestis, E.A. Scholz, Murray Pezim, Hugo Dummett Diamond, Colin Spence, Robert R. Hedley, and David Barr awards. The awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Dinner on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, during Mineral Exploration Roundup 2009.

Michael Savell is the recipient of the **H.H. “Spud” Huestis Award** for excellence in prospecting and mineral exploration. He has applied his dedication and geoscientific expertise to evaluate the exploration potential of the Mitchell zone on the Kerr Sulphurets property, potentially one of Canada’s largest gold deposits. Mr. Savell has shown a commitment to all stages of exploration and prospecting matched by few in his profession.

In 2001, when Noranda Inc. decided to return to western North America after a 10-year hiatus, the Kerr Sulphurets project was the number two target on Mr. Savell’s list for the company after the Pebble project in Alaska. When Noranda was unsuccessful in acquiring Pebble, he quickly changed focus and began to research the Kerr Sulphurets property, flying in to examine old core samples. From the beginning he recognized the exploration potential of the Mitchell zone and, as was his nature, he quietly and diligently made the case to management. He and his team’s perseverance revealed gradual, but important increases in the deposit size. Dedicated to the project’s viability, Mr. Savell continued to champion the project when Falconbridge absorbed Noranda. After Falconbridge was bought by Xstrata, whose business plan did not include early stage exploration and development, he chose to stay with the project following its acquisition by Seabridge Gold. Mr. Savell’s focus and understanding of the geology of the previously underexplored Mitchell zone have advanced a dormant prospect to a highly promising target through several owners. His colleagues agree that it was Mr. Savell’s dedication and hard work that are the reasons why the project, now known as Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell, is advancing and increasing in both size and potential.

Scott Broughton, John Mirko and David Skerlec are awarded the **E.A. Scholz Award** for excellence in mine development for successfully developing the MAX molybdenum mine for Roca Mines Inc. in an environmentally and socially sensitive area. In 2007, the MAX Mine, south of Revelstoke, was the first new metal mine to open in B.C. in eight years.

In bringing the MAX Mine to operation, the Roca team (Broughton, Mirko and Skerlec) was persistent, open, focused and visionary. The Roca team optioned key claims and bought remaining ones around the mine during a time when molybdenum prices were still low. An important step during this acquisition phase was purchasing the complete data set from past work. The team quickly determined the spatial occurrence of a higher grade core on which to focus early mine development. They made wise decisions including buying and retrofitting an old mill instead of building a new one and hiring skilled local

contractors to get the job done right. Meanwhile, the Roca team started exploration activity to increase knowledge and extent of the resource.

Throughout the process they maintained a proactive, open and active dialogue with the local community that fostered and maintained public trust. The Roca team made a point of listening to heated public opinions about developing a mine in sensitive habitat, and candidly replied to every concern and question regarding the mine. Roca consistently demonstrated the company's commitment to the local community by hiring local workers and procuring locally to ensure local benefits.

The **Murray Pezim Award** for perseverance and success in financing mineral exploration is awarded to **Robert A. Quartermain** for masterfully arranging and raising both private and public financings to fund Silver Standard Resources Inc.'s exploration and development programs. Bob's association with Silver Standard dates back to 1985, when he became President after serving as a Teck geologist in charge of drilling at the David Bell gold mine at Hemlo, Ontario. Under his leadership in late 1993, Silver Standard implemented a corporate strategic plan to acquire bulk silver mineral properties and advance them with well coordinated exploration programs. Since 1993, Silver Standard's accumulation of reserves and resources in all categories has grown to over 1.6 billion ounces of silver and 5.6 million ounces of gold. Consequently, Silver Standard has the largest in-ground silver inventory of any publicly traded company in the world.

Mr. Quartermain has achieved extraordinary success and execution in advancing the Pirquitas silver mine in northwestern Argentina, Pitarrilla silver project in Durango, Mexico; San Luis gold-silver project in northern Peru; and the Snowfields gold-copper deposit in northwestern B.C., to name a few. He is a hands-on financier who has raised \$500 million to advance Silver Standard's projects.

The **2008 Hugo Dummett Diamond Award** is presented to the Shore Gold team of **Ken MacNeill, George Read, Harvey Bay and Pieter Du Plessis** for their leadership, consolidation, and coordination of the systematic evaluation of the very large and widespread Star-Orion South Diamond project in the Fort a la Corne diamond district in central Saskatchewan from a grassroots stage to an advanced exploration/development stage.

Under the leadership of the Shore Gold team, the Company has been transformed from a small junior company in 1993 to a mid-tier company that is currently determining the economic viability of the Star Diamond Project and its potential as a new diamond producer in Canada. It has designed and completed extensive underground exploration and bulk sampling programs, and has implemented a large diameter drilling program on a systematic pattern to confirm the diamond distribution for the very large Star kimberlite body. Shore Gold, as operator of the FALC joint venture, is also continuing with an advanced exploration program within the broad Orion Kimberlite Cluster of the Fort a la Corne belt. The deposits in this belt collectively represent the world's largest known diamond-bearing kimberlite field. Shore Gold has established an excellent relationship with nearby communities and regional stakeholders and has contributed substantially to local employment.

The **Collin Spence Award** for global mineral exploration is awarded to **Charles Forster**. Mr. Forster had the vision and tenacity to explore the Oyu Tolgoi project in southern Mongolia with Ivanhoe Mines Ltd. from 2001 until 2008 and discover the Southwest Oyu, Hugo Dummett and Heruga deposits, which collectively contain more than 45 million ounces of gold and 80 billion pounds of copper. Although Mr. Forster is happy to avoid the limelight, his vision and dedication are key reasons one of the world's largest copper-gold deposits was discovered. Ivanhoe invited him to Mongolia to evaluate their newly optioned Oyu Tolgoi property in 2001. The site had yielded copper for many years, but exploration by BHP Billiton had only defined a small deposit. Through his vision and geologic evaluation Mr. Forster

identified a target warranting diamond drilling in 2001. Over the next seven years the project took on global proportions, and Mr. Forster and the Ivanhoe exploration team spent long periods onsite with few breaks, bearing the hot, dry summers and cold, windy winters without complaint. With the most recent Heruga deposit discovery, Oyu Tolgoi is now considered the largest copper-gold discovery in 20 years.

To those who know him, this dedication and independent thinking is typical of Mr. Forster. Since graduating from the University of British Columbia in 1974 he has worked all over the world. Before Ivanhoe, he worked with Yunnan Mining Ltd. and DiamondWorks in China. He's also held geological and consulting positions with companies like Echo Bay Exploration, Texas Gulf Corporation, Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company and Union Carbide Corporation in a career with global reach from South Africa through northern Canada to Mongolia.

Robert L. Carpenter is the recipient of the **Robert R. Hedley Award** for excellence in Social and Environmental Responsibility. In 2007, after a 20-year uranium exploration and mining moratorium, Kivalliq Energy Corporation, under Dr. Carpenter's guidance as chairman, director and founder, was awarded an exploration permit to the historic Lac Cinquante Uranium Deposit in Nunavut. Kivalliq won an open-bid process for access to this highly sought-after property, largely thanks to the collaborative negotiation process coordinated by Dr. Carpenter with the Inuit people. It allowed the Inuit to become shareholders in Kivalliq, extended their royalty structure to federal lands surrounding the deposit and provided them with a 25 percent back-in right and business opportunities related to the project, pending feasibility. In turn, Kivalliq will have the opportunity to not only develop the Cinquante deposit, but also to explore for uranium on other regions of Inuit Owned Land. This remains the only uranium project to have successfully signed an agreement with Nunavut Inuit to date.

To achieve this milestone Dr. Carpenter drew on 20 years of experience in the north. His experience in Nunavut dates back to PhD work at the University of Western Ontario on the geologic setting of the Meliadine gold deposit near Rankin Inlet. His background also includes three years at the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada where he evaluated technical reports documenting work on mineral claims, prospecting permits and mining leases, and 10 years at BHP Billiton, Placer Dome, and WMC Resources focusing on early stage exploration projects in Canada, Australia and the United States.

Bill Mercer is the recipient of the **David Barr Award** for excellence in leadership and innovation in mineral exploration health and safety. Mr. Mercer is a tireless campaigner in promoting health and safety in mineral exploration. As Chair of the Health & Safety Committee of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), Mr. Mercer draws on over 30 years of experience in Canada and abroad, including his current role as Vice President of Exploration at Avalon Ventures Ltd., and previous ones as Chief Geologist for Noranda-Falconbridge and President of the PDAC.

Working closely with the Health & Safety Committee of AME BC, he expanded the regional safety survey and report of mineral exploration in western Canada to a national level. Mr. Mercer has spearheaded the development of health and safety guidelines for the global mineral exploration industry. The guidelines will form a key component of the PDAC's framework for responsible exploration and will be available to all companies, large or small, free of charge. His commitment to a culture of safety is also demonstrated through his implementation of a health and safety moment at the beginning of every PDAC board meeting. This acts as a constant reminder of the importance of health and safety in the industry and that everyone has a responsibility to ensure their safety and that of their colleagues in and outside the workplace. There are skeptics or detractors in the industry who view health and safety as "just a matter of common sense" or "just another social issue". Mr. Mercer does not allow these comments to thwart his objective: zero incidents in mineral exploration.

About AME BC:

AME BC represents more than 5,000 members including geoscientists, prospectors, engineers, entrepreneurs, exploration companies, suppliers, mineral producers, and associations who are engaged in mineral exploration in BC and throughout the world. Through leadership, partnerships, and advocacy, AME BC promotes a healthy environment and business climate for the mineral exploration industry. AME BC is the predominant voice of mineral exploration in British Columbia.

About Mineral Exploration Roundup:

Mineral Exploration Roundup is the world's premier annual technical mineral exploration conference, and will be held from January 26 to 29, 2009, at The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver. The conference program includes high profile international speakers on exploration activities, deposit geology, corporate social responsibility, Aboriginal and community relations, financing trends, and the outlook for 2009 and beyond. Roundup registration and tickets for the Awards Dinner are available at www.amebc.ca/rdupregistration.htm.

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For Mineral Exploration Roundup media accreditation, please register online at www.amebc.ca/media.htm or contact Chantelle Krish, PR Associates, at 604.681.1407 or ckrish@prassociates.ca.