

# *History of the NWT Mine Rescue Program*

*By Ryan Silke*

Modern day mine rescue crews are backed by a long history of development in safety technology and methods. In 1880, Henry Fleuss of Newcastle, England designed and patented the first oxygen breathing apparatus. His description is as follows:

*“The wearer breathes his own breath over and over again, the carbonic acid being absorbed from it at each expiration and, the requisite amount of oxygen being restored, the re-vivified air is fit to be again inhaled in the form of pure air.”*

Mine rescue organization itself appears on record at English coal mines at the turn of the century when W.E. Garforth opened a training station in 1904. By this time, the breathing apparatus was being refined and placed into production by Drager, a German

company, which later became one of the leading suppliers of mine rescue gear in the world. Other manufacturers of mine rescue gear at this time included the Mine Safety Appliances, based out of Pennsylvania in the U.S.

The first Canadian mine rescue station appears to have been built by Dominion Coal Company in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 1907 or 1908. There is also a record of rescue teams equipped with breathing apparatuses during a coal mine explosion rescue effort in 1908 in Pennsylvania. Within twenty years they were becoming common at the gold and silver mining camps of Ontario.

Mining accidents in the Northwest Territories were frequent in the early years

and with a lack of safety standards and rescue equipment the mines were not equipped to handle major disasters. The first reported death at an NWT mine was in 1937 at the Contact Lake silver mine when a bulldozer operator was struck by a timber he had uprooted from deep snow. Two years later at the Ptarmigan gold mine in Yellowknife, Horace Carling fell down the mine shaft and died of his injuries.

The biggest disaster was the bunkhouse fire at Negus mine on Christmas Eve 1946, when three men perished. A variety of mining accidents in Yellowknife in the late 1940s awakened the need for better safety programs. It also made government and industry think more about an established rescue program - teams and equipment that could respond to a major underground disaster such as a mine fire.

In the Northwest Territories, formal organization of a mine rescue program

began after World War Two with the organization of the NWT Safety Council in 1947. This council, in association with the local mines and the Administration of the NWT, was very concerned about safety issues. Federal mining inspector Ken Christie wrote in May 1947:

*“Both the operators and our department are fully aware of the fact that no mine rescue apparatus is available in the North West Territories. I feel, therefore, that some action should be taken immediately, either that we supply the apparatus or the mines supply them. In case a fire were to break out we have no means of rescuing men trapped underground.”*

Soon thereafter, the NWT Safety Council purchased the first mine rescue gear, fourteen Chemox apparatuses. The Safety Council was also involved in the drafting of the first NWT Mine Safety Act in 1947-1948.



***Yellowknife's old Mine Rescue Station,  
where the Side Door Youth Center is now.***

Mining inspectors Steve Homulos and Geddes Webster hammered-out the important document, setting standards on how northern mines should operate. Before that, mines relied on the safety methods applied in jurisdictions such as BC and Ontario, which although excellent practice, did not always apply to northern issues. The NWT's own safety act was an important step both legally and functionally.

Back in those years the Federal Government, through various departments, was responsible for northern development. In 1949, the mines and the NWT Safety Council successfully lobbied the government to build a mine rescue station. The station was managed by the NWT Safety Council with funding by the mines on an annual basis. The initial capital construction funds were provided by the mines and government. Art Caldicott, an engineer from Con Mine, drew up the building plans and Fred Dunn from Negus Gold Mine in Yellowknife agreed to manage the safety programs. Steve Homulos, resident mining inspector, was also involved in organizing and running the station as official government liaison.

The mine rescue station was completed in 1950 and was located where the Side Door Youth Centre is today. The lower floor had a two-bay garage for ambulance, classrooms, offices, and storage, while the upstairs was

an apartment for the mine rescue superintendent and his family.



NWT Mine rescue team in national competition, 1967.

Mine rescue and first aid training was offered to all mine employees and the first classes began in 1951. Starting in 1955, the NWT mines began organizing first aid teams for competition. The prize was the Claire White Trophy, named after a manager at Con Mine between 1947 and 1953 and later at United Keno Hill operations in the Yukon. Eldorado Uranium Mine at Port

Radium, Great Bear Lake was the first winner of this trophy in 1955.

The Claire White first aid competition was typically held in the spring of the year and continued into the early 1960s and was eventually integrated into the mine rescue competition.

Mine rescue demonstrations were first held on October 13<sup>th</sup> 1956 at the Gerry Murphy Arena. Fred Dunn and Steve Homulos designed and constructed an elaborate underground maze from wood timbers and burlap sacks. Homulos also acted as chief judge, supported by safety staff at each mine. Four teams entered the event: Con, Giant, and Discovery Gold Mines and the Eldorado Uranium Mine. This was not a competitive event, rather a show of skills and a critique of each team's ability at mine rescue work. At the end of the demonstration, each team was briefed on their performance.



Steve Homulos, chief mining inspector and organizer of the first mine rescue events (left), and Leo Comeau, mine rescue coordinator from 1958-1971 (right).

The first competitive event was held the following year on September 7<sup>th</sup> 1957 between the three gold mines. This was a semi-final event. The winners, Giant Mine, then traveled to Port Radium on Great Bear Lake on September 21<sup>st</sup> to compete against the Eldorado Uranium team, winning that test as well. Giant's team was the first NWT champion of mine rescue in 1957.



Training Inuit workers at Rankin Inlet nickel mine, 1961.

Mine rescue equipment in the 1950s included the 'McCaa' 2-hour breathing apparatus, a closed-circuit system supplying compressed pure-oxygen to the wearer. CO<sub>2</sub> gasses were removed by a chemical reaction with potassium dioxide, consuming the CO<sub>2</sub> and producing oxygen. The 'McCaa' unit, manufactured by Mine Safety Appliances in the US, was replaced by the more sophisticated 'Draeger' 4-hour breathing apparatus in 1965-1966, a German model.



Different Generations of Mine Rescue Coordinators: Nolan Boss (1971-1982), Ed Castillo (1982-1996), Terry Cameron (1997-2004), Dave Arthur (2004-2010)

years although they seemed to have been loosely organized and different trophies would sometimes be offered. In 1967 the first Dominion or Canadian Mine Rescue Competitions were held. Local organizers decided to send combined teams from Giant and Con to the events and for 1967 and 1968 there was no local competition. By the 1970s many new NWT mines were opening up so the Yellowknife gold mines became matched against lead, zinc, tungsten, and silver mines.

During the move to devolve government departments and programs to the Territorial Government in the 1970s, the mine rescue program was transferred to the GNWT in 1981 and was managed by the Mines Inspection Services department. By this time the Territories Mines Accident Prevention Association was also organized as a successor of the NWT Mine Safety Association (known previously as the NWT Mine Safety Council until 1966). The grand

prize became the Commissioner's Cup trophy, donated by the Commissioner of the GNWT. The mine rescue station was shutdown as the mines took affairs into their own hands.



The Commissioner's Cup was the mine rescue trophy from 1977-2003.

In 1991 the mine rescue events became affixed to the annual NWT Mining Week celebration. In 1997, a first aid event sponsored by St. John Ambulance became part of the mine rescue events and in 1996 WCB (Workers' Compensation Board) took

over the Mining Inspection Division of the GNWT and became organizer of the annual event.

The Dominion or Canadian Mine Rescue Championships, last held in 1986, were rejuvenated in 1993 as the Eastern and Western Regional Finals. Winning NWT teams were eligible to compete in the Western Regionals, held every two years in Fernie, B.C. NWT teams did very well in the Canadian competitions. Lupin Gold Mine was the first winner of the Western Regional Competition in 1993. Polaris Mine also won the Western Regional in 1999, followed by Miramar Con & Giant Mines in 2003.

Mine rescue continues today and new teams have replaced the old. The gold mines are all closed and the diamond mines are now the key participants. Technology and methods of mine rescue have improved and even the old Commissioner's Cup has been replaced

with a modern version. But the important tradition of mine safety continues and remains an invaluable and cherished aspect of the northern mining industry.



Running the course, 1978.



# 1957 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The year 1957 marked the first annual NWT mine rescue competition in which the mining teams challenged each other for a trophy. At that time there were only three gold mines operating in the Yellowknife area but there was also a mine rescue team at the Eldorado uranium mine at Port Radium, Great Bear Lake. Con, Giant, and Discovery competed in a semi-final event held at the Gerry Murphy Arena on September 7<sup>th</sup> 1957. Giant, the winning team, then went on to Port Radium on Great Bear Lake where they challenged the Eldorado team for NWT Championship on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The teams were trained by Fred Dunn, mine rescue superintendent and chief organizer, while Steve Homulos, mining inspector, was the chief judge.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
- Eldorado Uranium Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Leo Comeau (captain), Al Rappholder, William Powless,  
Nick Majacich, John Barraclough, Oren Butler (spare).*

## 1958 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The second annual mine rescue competition was held on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1958 at Yellowknife's Gerry Murphy Arena. Three gold mines and Eldorado Uranium Mine competed. The problem facing the teams involved subduing a fire in an underground ore pass, but to complicate the situation the vice-captain of each team was instructed by the organizers to pass-out during the procedure. Chief judge was mining inspector Steve Homulos, with field judges Gerry Clayton from Con, Don Spain from Con, and John Garner from Discovery Mine. Some of the bench judges included George Taylor and George Dundas from Giant Mine and Joe Scarbrough from Con. Giant Gold Mine won the competition for the second time. Fred Dunn resigned as mine rescue superintendent and Leo Comeau took over the station.

### Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
- Eldorado Uranium Mine

### Winners:

◇ **Giant Gold Mine** ◇

*William Powless (captain), A. Webb, Jake Heinrich, Gunther Golchert, Oren Butler.*

# 1959 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The 1959 NWT mine rescue tests were held on September 19<sup>th</sup> 1959 at the Gerry Murphy Arena in Yellowknife. The task involved an explosion on the third level of a mine and dense smoke that followed. The mine rescue team's job is to find three men on that level and navigate the numerous obstacles present. The entry from Eldorado Uranium Mine won the event for 1959.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
- Eldorado Uranium Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Eldorado Uranium Mine ◇

*Walter Rusinek, Fred Schmidt, Jim Letawsky,  
O. Reike, S. Cemulini.*

# 1960 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

In 1960, two separate mine rescue competitions emerged with a trophy sponsored by two separate safety companies, Mine Safety Appliances and Leavitt Safety. The Leavitt Safety trophy was a competition open to NWT mine teams and also outside teams from outlying mining camps. A team from the Beaverlodge Uranium Mine at Uranium City, Saskatchewan competed in this event against Con, Giant, and Discovery Gold Mines. Meanwhile, a separate championship for NWT mine teams only was sponsored by Mine Safety Appliances and Con, Giant, and Discovery Gold Mines competed for this award. The Eldorado Uranium Mine closed in September 1960 so no team from that mine participated in the event. The event was held at the Gerry Murphy Arena on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1960.

## Competing Teams: (Leavitt Trophy)

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
  - Uranium City

## Competing Teams: (MSA Trophy)

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine

## Winners: (both events)

## ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*Glenn Parry (captain), George Brisch, Bob Smithies,  
John Yasensky, Nolan Boss, Lawrence Bryan.*

# 1961 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Once again, the 1961 mine rescue event featured two separate trophies for NWT only teams, and NWT and outside teams (Uranium City). The event was held at the Gerry Murphy Arena on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1961. Con Mine won both trophies.

In 1961, the mine rescue station in Yellowknife was under the command of Leo Comeau and had 24 McCaa breathing apparatus' and 20 Chemox masks.

## Competing Teams: (Leavitt Trophy)

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
  - Uranium City

## Competing Teams: (MSA Trophy)

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine

**Winners: (both events)**

◇ **Con Gold Mine** ◇

*Glenn Parry (captain), George Brisch, Bob Smithies,  
John Yasensky, Nolan Boss, Lawrence Bryan.*

# 1962 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The 1962 competition was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> 1962 in Yellowknife. There is very little information available on the event, but it is known that the local gold mine competed together with one or more teams from Uranium City, and Giant Mine emerged as the winner.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
- Uranium City (possible multiple teams?)

## Winners: (Leavitt Trophy)

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*William Powless (captain), Nick Majacich, Al Rappholder,  
Ed Sader, Gunther Golchert, Oren Butler.*

# 1963 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Records suggest that there was no NWT teams-only competition in 1963 and that only the Leavitt Safety Trophy was offered, in which Uranium City was allowed to compete against the NWT teams. Discovery Gold Mine did not enter a team because of labour shortages at the mine and concerns of mine closure. The competition was held September 20-21<sup>st</sup> 1963 and for the first time the Claire White First Aid Trophy competition was held in conjunction with mine rescue events.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Uranium City

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*William Powless (captain), Con Hrycon, Gunther Golchert,  
Nick Majacich, Ed Sader, Al Rappholder.*

## 1964 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The 1964 mine rescue competition was held August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Discovery Mine property. Giant Mine again emerged as the winner in the event. No team from Uranium City competed in the event, however a mine rescue team from the new Tundra Gold Mine, located 200 kilometers northeast of Yellowknife in the Barrenlands, joined in the fun. There was also a 'First Annual Inter-Mine First Aid' event held at Discovery on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1964 with Con, Giant, and Discovery participating. Con's team under captain Bob Smithies won that event.

### Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Discovery Gold Mine
- Tundra Gold Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*William Powless (captain), Gunther Golchert, Knut Rasmussen,  
Nick Majacich, Ed Sader, John Barraclough (coach)*



## 1965 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The year 1965 again featured two trophies – the Mine Safety Appliances and Leavitt Safety Trophies. The event was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1965, marking the first time that mine rescue competitions were held in the early summer months, a tradition that continues today. Due to a surplus amount of trained men, a team composed of both Con and Giant employees was formed as a separate mine rescue team. Incidentally, this team won the competition.

### Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Con-Giant combined
- Discovery Gold Mine
- Tundra Gold Mine

**Winners: (both trophies)**

### ◇ Con-Giant Combined Team ◇

*Bob Smithies (Con), Leon Taparti (Con), Herman Pikarek (Giant),  
Oren Butler (Giant), Larry Babiuk (Con), George Ewasiuk (Giant).*

# 1966 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Giant Gold Mine entered two teams in 1966, one composed of regular mine rescue members and one composed of mine engineering staff trained in mine rescue. Giant's #2 team, the staff regiment, won against teams from Con and Discovery. A first aid event was also held during the June 16-17<sup>th</sup> competition and involved a team from Uranium City. By this time, the mine rescue prize was known as the Leavitt Territorial Safety Trophy.

In 1966, the Yellowknife mine rescue station was equipped with 24 McCaa 2-hour breathing apparatus packs, 20 Chemox packs, and 12 all service masks. There were substations at the Discovery, Tundra, and Echo Bay operations each equipped with 6 McCaa packs.

Teams from Giant and Con mines were flown to Keno Hill Silver Mine in the Yukon in June 1966 to help rescue miners who were trapped in an underground fire.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine (2 teams)
- Discovery Gold Mine

## Winners:

◇ **Giant Gold Mine** ◇

*No information on team members*

## 1967 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

According to the available records, there was no local NWT competition in 1967. Instead, Con and Giant Gold Mines put together a joint team for competing in the first annual Dominion Mine Rescue Competition, a national event held in Trail, British Columbia on June 26<sup>th</sup>. A team from Fernie, B.C. got first place and the NWT team got second place, an excellent achievement considering it was the first time in history that an NWT mine rescue team competed in a national competition.

The NWT mine rescue team was represented by William Powless (captain), Ken Goldstone, and Ernie Filewych from Giant Mine, and John Yasensky, Noland Boss, and Eric Christensen from Con Mine.

## 1968 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

There was once again no local NWT mine rescue competition in 1968; Con and Giant Mines assembled a joint team to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Dominion Mine Rescue Competition held in Penticton, British Columbia, in June 1968. The new Dräger BG-174 breathing apparatus packs were introduced to the NWT during the year. They were capable of producing 4-hours worth of breathable air mixture as opposed to the older, 2-hour McCaa packs.

The NWT mine rescue team was represented by William Powless (captain), Gunther Golchert, and Ernie Filewych from Giant Mine, and Bob Clarke, Frank Incrocci, and Eric Christensen from Con Mine.

## 1969 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The NWT mine rescue competitions resumed in 1969 after a two year absence. 1969 marked the start of a four year rivalry between Con and Giant Gold Mines, who were the only participating mine rescue teams in the NWT. Discovery Gold Mine closed in 1968 and the other mining operations in the NWT had not yet organized a mine rescue program. The event was held underground at Giant Mine, the first year that mine rescue was hosted by a gold mine rather than at the Gerry Murphy Arena and also the first that it was held in an underground environment. 1969 was also the first year that the popular 'polar-bear' mine rescue logo was introduced. Con, winners of the NWT event, went on to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Dominion Mine Rescue Competition in Saskatoon but lost to a Nova Scotia team.

### Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*John Yasensky (captain), Eric Christensen, Russ Renneberg,  
Gordon Russell, Bob Clarke (vice captain), Frank Incrocci.*

## 1970 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The 1970 pitted Giant against Con Mine for the right to represent the NWT in the Dominion Mine Rescue Championships, which incidentally were held in Yellowknife that year. Giant won the NWT competition and a few days later on June 13<sup>th</sup>, the team was back in action at the Gerry Murphy Arena competing for the Dominion title. Teams from the Yukon, NWT, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta competed, and the Texado Mines Ltd. team from B.C. took home the trophy.

### Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Ken Goldstone (captain), Delburt Hamilton, Cecil Tippett,  
Chris McCarthy, Mike Ekins, Ed Castillo,  
Stu Cowans (coach).*

# 1971 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Giant Mine continued to dominate the mine rescue events in 1971 against Con Mine. The event was held at the Giant Mine in June 1971. A week later, the Giant Mine team, representing the NWT as champions, won the Hardrock Division trophy in the Dominion Mine Rescue event in Edmonton. The prize for the Hardrock Division was a trophy donated by the United Steelworkers of America union. Leo Comeau retired as mine rescue superintendent in Yellowknife and Nolan Boss, who had trained under Comeau, took charge of NWT mine rescue operations.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Nick Majacich (captain), Ed Castillo, Ernie Filewych,  
Cecil Tippett, Tony Shearcroft, Chris McCarthy,  
Roy Feather (coach).*

# 1972 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The strong team from Giant Gold Mine won the local NWT competition for the third year in a row and, going on to the Dominion Championships in Victoria on June 24<sup>th</sup>, again won the Hardrock Division trophy and coming in second place overall.

Mine rescue equipment in service in the NWT included 30 BG-174 Dräger breathing apparatus packs at the Yellowknife station, plus 6 packs at Echo Bay Silver Mine on Great Bear Lake, whose distance from the Yellowknife station necessitated their own safety gear.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Nick Majacich (captain), Tony Shearcroft, Jack Doyle,  
Terry Trott, Chris McCarthy, Ed Castillo,  
Roy Feather (coach).*



# 1973 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

A team from Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine entered the NWT mine rescue competition in 1973. Pine Point was an open pit mine but they had a small underground tunnel for mining one of the deeper ore zones. The event was held at Con Mine for the first time on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1973, and Con finally disrupted Giant Mine's winning streak. The Dominion Mine Rescue event was held in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Con Mine was awarded champions at the Hardrock Division and second place overall.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*John Yasenky (captain), W. Welsh, Rick McMillan,  
R. (Hal) Ulrig, Vito Pocai, Robert Oliver,  
Herb Heinz (coach).*

# 1974 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Giant Gold Mine was back in its former glory with a win against Con and Pine Point in the June 8<sup>th</sup> 1974 mine rescue event. Giant then went onto the Dominion Mine Rescue Championship in Whitehorse on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and almost won the prestigious award but lost points because they accidentally ran over the time allotted to finish the obstacles.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Nick Majacich (captain), Jack Doyle, Paul Bugg,  
Zigmunt Kowal, Gunther Golchert, Ed Castillo,  
William Powless (coach).*

# 1975 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Held on June 21<sup>st</sup> 1975 at the Pine Point Mine, the Con Mine team wound up winning the event and, carrying the NWT banner, won the Dominion Mine Rescue Championships in Calgary, both the Hardrock Division and the overall title (the first time an NWT team won the overall). Pine Point entered two teams, an underground and a surface regiment. Canada Tungsten Mining Corp. (a tungsten mine) entered a team for the first time.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Canada Tungsten Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine (2 teams)

## Winners:

### ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*Peter Jones (captain), Henry Heyck (#2 man), Gordon Kendall (#3 man),  
Silvio Dacorte (#4 man), Jim Drake (vice captain), Jim Smith (#6 man),  
Herb Heinz (coach).*

# 1976 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Pine Point's mine rescue team won its first and only ever NWT mine rescue championship in 1976. Two new mine rescue teams entered in the competition in this year, including Echo Bay Mines Ltd. (silver mine), and Terra Mining & Exploration Ltd. (silver mine). Pine Point again entered two teams. Its #2 team won the event, and its #1 team got second place. The event was held June 12-13<sup>th</sup> at Giant Mine.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine (2 teams)
  - Canada Tungsten Mine
  - Echo Bay Silver Mine
  - Terra Silver Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine #2 Team ◇

*Tim Rann (captain), Ed McCarthy (#2 man), Harold Loupert (#3 man),  
Wade Wilson (#4 man), Harry Manuel (vice captain), Rick Karpo (#6 man),  
Graham Clow (coordinator), Oliver Kenig (coach).*

# 1977 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

In the 1977 event, another new mine entered a mine rescue team – Nanisivik Mines Ltd., a lead/zinc mine on Baffin Island. The event was held on Con Mine grounds, and the winner was Giant Gold Mine. The Dominion Mine Rescue Championships were again hosted by Yellowknife in 1977 and while Giant's team did not win that event they were recognized for their safety record by being awarded the J.T. Ryan Safety Award for having one of the best safety records in Canada.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine (2 teams)
  - Canada Tungsten Mine
  - Echo Bay Silver Mine
  - Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Nick Majacich (captain), Noel O'Sullivan (#2), Paul Bugg (#3), Al Shearing (#4), Brian Watson (vice captain), Ed Castillo (#6), Gunther Golchert (coordinator), Ken Goldstone (coach).*

# 1978 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Giant Gold Mine's experienced team again won the mine rescue event in 1978. It was held at Giant Mine on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1978. Other consolation awards included one for Nanisivik's rookie team which came in last place but was recognized for their improvement in the field. One of the volunteer casualties, Don Wardell, was also awarded for his fine acting skills. His cries for help were so real and gut wrenching even spectators were ready to jump over the ropes to help him.

The mine rescue station in Yellowknife now had seventy-two Dräger BG-174 packs, thirty SR-45 self rescuers, thirty-six MSA air masks, and testing equipment for various gases that may be found underground.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine
- Canada Tungsten Mine
- Echo Bay Silver Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Nick Majacich (captain), Noel O'Sullivan, Paul Bugg,  
Al Shearing, Zigmunt Kowal (vice captain), Ed Castillo,  
Gunther Golchert (coordinator), Ken Goldstone (coach).*

# 1979 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The 1979 mine rescue event was hosted by Canada Tungsten Mining Corporation at their Cantung Mine on the Yukon border, the first time in twenty-two years that the competition was not held in Yellowknife. Con Mine won the event and went on the Dominion Competition in Whitehorse winning the Larry Sefton Trophy as Hardrock Division champions and second place overall.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Canada Tungsten Mine
  - Echo Bay Silver Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*Dennis Hache, Gerard Gillis, Jamie Law,  
Ivan Peleskei, Marc Beland, Gerard Lachapelle,  
Wayne Osborne (coach).*

# 1980 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine won the 1980 mine rescue competition for the first time, but not the last. The competition was held in Yellowknife at the Con Mine property on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1980. Giant Mine, which was on strike during the competition, did not enter a team for the first time in its history. 1980 appears to be the first year that the Commissioner's Trophy was the mine rescue prize.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine
- Canada Tungsten Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Paul Brunner (captain), Dave Plumb (#2 man), George Wiseman (#3 man), Robin Rowan (#4 man), John McConnell (vice captain), Dave Steffan (#6 man), H. de Ruiter (coordinator).*



# 1981 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Held on June 13<sup>th</sup> 1981 at the Pine Point Mine property, the 1981 mine rescue event was won by Con Gold Mine, who then went on to win the Dominion Mine Rescue Competition just as they had done in 1975 and 1979. Cantung Mine was on strike in 1981 and did not compete.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*Martin Parnell (captain), Ivan Peleskei (vice captain),  
Gerry Lachappelle, Chris Zahovskis, Jesse Winters, Dennis Hache,  
Wayne Osborne (coach).*

# 1982 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The 1982 event was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Giant Mine and was won by the Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine team. This was the first year that Cominco's Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine competed. The mine safety division was transferred from DIAND to the Government of the NWT. Ed Castillo, a 12-year member of the Giant mine rescue squad, became mine rescue superintendent with the GNWT, staying until his retirement in 1996.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine
- Canada Tungsten Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*John McConnell (captain), George Wiseman, J. Conroy, Joe Lousin,  
Chuck Ross (vice captain), H. de Ruiter (coordinator), Wayne Osborne (coach)*

# 1983 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1983 at Nanisivik Mine. It was a unique competition because it was one of two occasions the underground obstacle course was actually *held* underground. Con Mine entered with two teams and the #1 team under captain Martin Parnell won the competition. Pine Point did not enter a team nor did Canada Tungsten because both mines had labour strikes during the summer of 1983. Echo Bay Mines Ltd's Lupin Gold Mine organized their first team.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine (2 teams)
  - Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Con Gold Mine ◇

*Martin Parnell (captain), Bob Robertson (#2 man), Ace Kring (#3 man),  
Tony McKay (#4 man), Jesse Winters (vice captain), Dennis Hache (#6 man),  
Chris Jahovskis (coach), Bob Barclay (coordinator).*

# 1984 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1984 at Con Mine camp. A record amount of teams competed for the Commissioner's Trophy. It was a heated match, but Giant's mine rescue team emerged victorious. A team from the Terra Silver mine returned to the competition but it was the last year the mine operated.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
  - Terra Silver Mine
- Canada Tungsten Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Al Shearing (captain), Paul Nesbitt, Lloyd Marshall, Fred Hildebrand,  
Keith Murray, Mark Mitchell (coordinator), Rob Pellerin (coach).*

# 1985 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 14-15<sup>th</sup> 1985 at the Canada Tungsten Mine. Nanisivik Mine won the event. It was the last year that Canada Tungsten entered a team because the mine closed early in 1986, however twenty years later the mine reopened and in 2007 a team from Cantung Mine returned. 1985 was also the last year that a team from Pine Point entered the competition. In that year the mine initiated another underground mining project known as the Y-65, but the mine and the team did not exist for the following year. Pine Point Mine finally ceased open pit mining operations in 1988.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
- Pine Point Lead/Zinc Mine
- Canada Tungsten Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Chuck Ross (captain), Carl Thom, Dave Steffan, Terry Butz, Mike Delay,  
Steve Blaho, Murray John (coordinator), Jack Haynes (coach).*

# 1986 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 13-14<sup>th</sup> 1986. It was hosted for the first time by Echo Bay Mines Limited and was held indoors at their large hanger at the Yellowknife airport. A team from Salmita Gold Mine coached by Larry Campanas made their first and only appearance. The team from Nanisivik Mine once again won the Commissioner's Trophy. They also won the Dominion Mine Rescue Competition held in Nanaimo, B.C.

## Competing Teams:

- Con Gold Mine
- Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
- Salmita Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Chuck Ross (captain), Terry Alexander, Dave Steffan, Terry Butz, Mike Delay,  
John Parsons, Murray John (coordinator), Jack Haynes (coach).*

# 1987 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 12-13<sup>th</sup> 1987 at the Echo Bay Hanger at the Yellowknife Airport. Nanisivik Mine won the event for the third year in a row and for the fifth time in its history of competitions. Con Mine was sold to Nerco Minerals earlier in the year. For the first time, women joined the mine rescue teams. Barbara Mossop, an engineer from Giant, and Selena Gibson, from Lupin, were on their respective mine rescue squads in 1987.

## Competing Teams:

- Nerco Con Gold Mine
  - Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Chuck Ross (captain), Terry Alexander, Dave Steffan, Joe Lousin, Mike Delay,  
John Parsons, Murray John (coordinator), Jack Haynes (coach).*

# 1988 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 17-18<sup>th</sup> 1988 at the Echo Bay Hanger at the Yellowknife Airport. Nerco Con Mine won the event.

## Competing Teams:

- Nerco Con Gold Mine
  - Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nerco's Con Gold Mine ◇

*Bob Robertson (captain), Jerry Lafferty (#2), Dave Arthur (#3), Alex Arnett (#4), Bernie Schmachtel (vice captain), Syd Jackson (#6), Gary Laidlaw (#7), Greg Majeran (coordinator).*



# 1989 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 16-17<sup>th</sup> 1989 at the Echo Bay Hanger at the Yellowknife Airport. Nanisivik Mine won the event for the sixth time in history.

## Competing Teams:

- Nerco Con Gold Mine
  - Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Fred Bailey (captain), John Parsons (#2), Andre Boudreault (#3), Barry Miller (#4), Dave Steffan (vice captain), Paddy Sullivan (#6), Murray Markle (coordinator), Chuck Ross (coach).*

# 1990 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 15-16<sup>th</sup> 1990 at the Echo Bay Hanger at the Yellowknife Airport. Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine won the event for the first time.

## Competing Teams:

- Nerco Con Gold Mine
  - Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Ron Matthews (captain), Joe Nicholson (vice captain),  
Christine Deslauriers, Gerald Kanary, Charlie Dyer, Dave Fearn,  
Andrew Rolf von den Baumen (coordinator), Larry Campanas (coach).*

# 1991 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 21-22<sup>nd</sup> 1991 as part of the first annual NWT Mining Week, a celebration of the northern mining industry. It was decided to move the mine rescue events to the Yellowknife Community Arena where the rest of the Mining Week celebrations were being held, to make them more visible to the public. Nanisivik's team won the event for its seventh time.

## Competing Teams:

- Nerco Con Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Fred Bailey (captain), John Parsons (#2), Andre Boudreault (#3), Barry Miller (#4), Dave Steffan (vice captain), Boyce Wellman (#6), Chuck Ross (coordinator), John McConnell (coach).*

## 1992 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The annual Mining Week celebrations were cancelled in 1992 because of tensions surrounding the strike at Royal Oak's Giant Gold Mine. The mine rescue competition continued however but it was decided to not hold them in Yellowknife for fear of continued tension. Giant did not enter a team of course, but neither did Nerco Con Mine. Polaris, Nanisivik, and Lupin Mines sent teams to Fernie, British Columbia where a Dominion Championship was to be held in June. The three teams had a mini competition, in which Lupin Gold Mine was declared the NWT champion.

### Competing Teams:

- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
- Lupin Gold Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Lupin Gold Mine ◇

*John Giza (captain), Dan Menard, Jim Bella, Boyd Black,  
Daryl Craig, Mike Maguire, Al Stuart (coach).*

## 1993 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The ongoing Giant Mine strike prevented a Yellowknife organized Mining Week and mine rescue competition in 1993. Nanisivik, Polaris, and Lupin mines held a small competition at the Lupin Mine property on June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, in which Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine emerged as champion. 1993 was the first year that the Western Regional Mine Rescue Competition was held. This competition replaced the Dominion Championship. Winners of the Eastern and Western Regionals went on to compete in the World Championships. Held every two years in Fernie, B.C., the Western Regional could accommodate local winners from the two years prior, so for the 1993 competition Lupin, winners of 1992, and Polaris, winner of 1993, participated. Lupin's mine rescue team was victorious and declared Western Regional Champion.

### Competing Teams:

- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Joe Nicholson (captain), Don Darrach (#2), Rory Clark (#3), Tim Smith (#4),  
Charlie Dyer (vice captain), Gerald Callahan (#6),  
Murray Harris (coordinator), Larry Campanas (coach).*

# 1994 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

Mining Week resumed during 1994 and mine rescue competitions were held in the Yellowknife Community Arena on June 17-18<sup>th</sup>. Lupin Mine was declared the 1994 winner. Nanisivik placed second, surprising judges because it was the first time on record that a team won the obstacle course yet lost the overall competition. A team from Royal Oak's Giant Mine returned after a two-year hiatus because of the strike, but this team did very poorly having lost its captain and two other members just weeks before the competition.

## Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Lupin Gold Mine ◇

*John Giza (captain), Boyd Black, Al Poole,  
Daryl Craig, Jim Bella (vice captain), D. McGowan,  
Dan Menard (coordinator), Terry Cameron and Bruce Graney (coaches).*

# 1995 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 16-17<sup>th</sup> 1995 at the Yellowknife Community Arena and the Yellowknife Firehall. A team from Colomac Gold Mine competed for the first time. Miramar Con Mine's team was declared winner of the 1995 event and went on to the Western Regional Finals at Fernie, BC, in which they received second place overall.

## Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
    - Lupin Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Colomac Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Miramar's Con Gold Mine ◇

*Lex Lovatt (captain), Soren Thomassen, Doug Dungey,  
George Friesen, Doug Landsdown, Tony Randall,  
Dave Arthur (coordinator), Greg Majeran (coach).*

# 1996 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 21-22<sup>nd</sup> 1996 at the Yellowknife Community Arena and the Yellowknife Firehall. Polaris Mine's team was declared winner of the 1996 event. Colomac did not enter a team.

## Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Joe Nicholson (captain), Jeff Smith (#2), Shawn Stevens (#3),  
Tony Miller (#4), Charlie Dyer (vice captain), Brian Power (#6),  
Rory Clark (coordinator), Larry Campanas (coach).*



# 1997 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 20-21<sup>st</sup> 1997 at the Yellowknife Community Arena and the Yellowknife Firehall. Colomac Mine again entered a team. Royal Oak's Giant Mine team won the competition.

## Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Giant Gold Mine
- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
- Royal Oak Colomac Gold Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Royal Oak's Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Denis Gratton (captain), Alex Clinton (#2), Gary Poxleitner (#3),  
Sylvan Amyotte (#4), Luc Normandin (vice captain), Chester Kocik (#6),  
Greg Trahan (coordinator), Bruce Graney (coach).*

## 1998 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 19-20<sup>th</sup> 1998 at the Yellowknife Community Arena and the Yellowknife Firehall. Polaris Mine's team was declared winner of the 1998 event. It was the first year that the BHP Ekati Diamond Mine team participated. Miramar's Con Mine was on strike and did not send a team, and Lupin Gold Mine was temporarily closed due to low gold prices. The Polaris team went to the Western Regional Finals in Fernie in September 1999 and emerged as the overall winner of the competition. They then went on to Las Vegas in 2000 and represented Canada in the National events but did not win.

### Competing Teams:

- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Charlie Dyer (captain), Shawn Stevens (vice captain), Tim Smith,  
Wally Maluta, Brian Power, Leon Crapeau,  
Dale Andres (coordinator), Larry Campanas (coach).*

# 1999 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1999 at the Yellowknife City Hall and the Yellowknife Firehall. BHP Ekati Diamond Mine's team was declared winner of the 1999 event. Miramar Con Mine was still on strike and Lupin was still closed.

## Competing Teams:

- Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
- Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Joe Nicholson (captain), Ryan Schimmelman, Don Radovitch,  
Kevin Foster (vice captain), Bruce Budgell, Andrea Minault (spare),  
Rob McLean (coordinator), Mike Cooper (coach), Lloyd Gould (coach).*

## 2000 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 16-17<sup>th</sup> 2000 at the Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. Royal Oak went bankrupt in 1999 and the Giant Mine was acquired by Miramar, who combined the Con and Giant mine rescue teams. This team won the 2000 competition. Lupin Mine also resumed operations and entered a team. The fire-fighting task was now held at Giant Mine property rather than at the fire hall.

### Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con & Giant Gold Mine
  - Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
    - Lupin Gold Mine
  - BHP Ekati Diamond Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Miramar Con & Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Luc Normandin (captain), Neil Thompson (#2), Jeff Sepp (#3),  
Fred Keller (#4), Sylvan Amyotte (vice captain),  
Jesse Adair (#6 and coach), Dave Arthur (coordinator).*

## 2001 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 22-23<sup>rd</sup> 2001 at the Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine was originally declared the winner, but there were mistakes made adding up the scores, and only afterwards was it found that Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine was the actual winner. For both mines it was an emotional competition for it was known the mines would not send teams back the next year to compete; Polaris and Nanisivik closed in 2002.

### Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con & Giant Gold Mine
  - Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine
  - Polaris Lead/Zinc Mine
    - Lupin Gold Mine
  - BHP Ekati Diamond Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Nanisivik Lead/Zinc Mine ◇

*Boyce Wellman (captain), Gaetan Hache (#2), Wade Bigras (#3),  
Bill Pelly (#4), Fred Pynn (vice captain), Stephanie Tremblay (spare),  
Murray Markle (coordinator)*

## 2002 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 21-22<sup>nd</sup> 2002 at the Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. Miramar Con & Giant Mine won the competition. The next year, in September 2003, the Miramar team went to Fernie, BC and won the Western Regional Championship. This victory would have guaranteed them a chance to represent Canada in the National competitions in 2004, but it was known during the 2003 events that Con and Giant would be closed by then.

### Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con & Giant Gold Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
  - BHP Ekati Diamond Mine

### Winners:

## ◇ Miramar Con & Giant Gold Mine ◇

*Luc Normandin (captain), Dave Phypers (#2), Kate Bruce (#3),  
Dean Warren (#4), Neil Thompson (vice captain), Peter Careen (#6),  
Jesse Adair (coach), Dave Arthur (coordinator).*

## 2003 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue competition was held on June 13-14<sup>th</sup> 2003 at the Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. It was the last year of competition for Miramar Con & Giant Mines who shutdown in 2003-2004, and also for the Lupin Mine. Lupin temporarily closed in 2003 but when it reopened in 2004-2005 they did not organize a mine rescue team. 2003 was the first year for Diavik Diamond Mine, which entered a team for the surface mine rescue competition. For the first time in thirty years, new mine rescue equipment was introduced. The new Dräger BG-4cp replaced the 1960s-vintage BG-174 breathing apparatus.

### Competing Teams:

- Miramar Con & Giant Gold Mine
  - Lupin Gold Mine
- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine
- Diavik Diamond Mine

### Winners: (underground competition)

#### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Troy Oslanski (captain), Jose Godoy (vice captain), Darin Anonby, Chris MacMillan, Ryan Schimmellman, Mike Tanguay, Trevor Kelly (coordinator), Harvey Callin (coach).*

### Winners: (surface competition)

#### ◇ Diavik Diamond Mine ◇

*Mark Wood (captain), Fred Steinwand (vice captain), Tim Evans, Brad Rogers, Craig Plamondon, Jim Way, Brian Chaput, Tracey Zarn (coach).*

## 2004 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 11-12<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. 2004 was the first year no gold mines participated in the mine rescue events, as only the diamond mines were in operation. No underground competitions were held since Diavik did not have any underground mining experience yet. Surface open pit-style mine rescue were the only events. BHP Ekati Diamond Mine won the competition in 2004.

### Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine
- Diavik Diamond Mine

### Winners: (surface competition)

## ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Troy Oslanski (captain), Chris MacMillan (vice captain),  
Cam Stromme, Tyson Ross, Gary Pocha,  
Darin Anonby (coordinator), Harvey Callin (coach).*



## **2005 NWT Mine Rescue Competition**

The mine rescue events were held June 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2005 at Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. The two operating diamond mines faced off in surface mine rescue events, and BHP Ekati Diamond Mine was again declared winner.

### **Competing Teams:**

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine
- Diavik Diamond Mine

### **Winners: (surface competition)**

## **◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇**

*Kevin Foster (captain), Chris MacMillan (vice captain),  
Andre Dupras, Murray Wick, Bruce McCarthy,  
Robert Pope, Alex Clinton (coach).*

## 2006 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 9-10<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. Tahera Diamond Corporation's new Jericho Diamond Mine entered a team for the surface mine rescue events, while Ekati and Diavik entered both the surface and underground events. The underground event was a tie-breaker; Ekati and Diavik received equal points, so the victor was decided by draw. Ekati was thus declared winner of the 2006 underground event while Tahera's Jericho Diamond Mine was declared winner of the 2006 surface event.

### Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
  - Tahera's Jericho Diamond Mine

### Winners: (underground competition)

#### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Cam Stromme (captain), Graham Simms (vice captain), Peter Devolder, Chris Koebel, Robert MacLean, Colin Elson (coordinator), Alex Clinton (coach).*

### Winners: (surface competition)

#### ◇ Jericho Diamond Mine ◇

*Kevin Foster (captain), Anthony Bayduza, Bruce McCarthy, Corey Kinsey, Maurice Kay, Mike Tanguay, Dale Craig (coach)*

## 2007 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 8-9<sup>th</sup> 2007 at Yellowknife City Hall and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events. New teams included North American Tungsten (owners of the Cantung Mine), and De Beer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine. BHP Ekati Diamond Mine organized two teams, one for surface and one for underground. BHP Ekati Diamond Mine won the underground event while Tahera's Jericho Diamond Mine won the surface event.

### Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
  - Tahera's Jericho Diamond Mine
  - DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine
- North American Tungsten's Cantung Mine

### Winners: (underground competition)

#### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Peter Devolder (captain), Cam Stromme (vice captain), Shawn Stevens, Chris Koebel, Phil McPhail, Graham Simms, Rob McLean (coordinator), Joe Nicholson (coach).*

### Winners: (surface competition)

#### ◇ Jericho Diamond Mine ◇

*Bruce McCarthy (captain), Corey Kinsley, Chris Ryan, Marty Peters, Anthony Beduza (vice captain), Perry Mulley, Dale Craig (coach)*

## 2008 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 13-14<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events, but there was no separate prize for surface events this year. Tahera's Jericho Diamond Mine closed during the year so no teams competed; North American Tungsten did not send a team. BHP Ekati Diamond Mine won the overall competition.

### Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine
- Diavik Diamond Mine
- DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine

### Winners:

#### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Troy Oslanski (captain), Chris Koebel, Phil McPhail, Murray Wick,  
Graham Simms (vice captain), Thomas Smith, Peter Devolder (coordinator)*

# 2009 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 12-13<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events. Diavik Diamond Mine won the overall competition.

## Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
  - DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine

## Winners:

### ◇ Diavik Diamond Mine ◇

*Kelsey Loessl (u/g captain), Brad Rogers (surface captain), Yuri Kinakin, Erika Tamboline, Dean Coles, Chris Ethier, Jesse Lepine, Matt Reed, John Arnold (coach), and Alex Clinton (coordinator)*

# 2010 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 11-12<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events. BHP Ekati Diamond Mine won both the underground and surface competitions.

## Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
- DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)

## Winners: (underground competition)

### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Peter Devolder (captain), Cam Stromme (vice captain), Shawn Stevens, Chris Koebel, Phil McPhail, Graham Simms, Rob McLean (coordinator), Joe Nicholson (coach).*

## Winners: (surface competition)

### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Bruce McCarthy (captain), Corey Kinsley, Chris Ryan, Marty Peters, Anthony Beduza (vice captain), Perry Mulley, Dale Craig (coach)*

# 2011 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events. The Minto Mine from the Yukon Territory and the Meadowbank gold mine from Nunavut Territory were also invited to join in the competition. It was the first time in history that teams from all three northern territories participated in the event.

## Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
  - DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine
- Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank Gold Mine (from Nunavut)
  - Capstone's Minto Mine (from the Yukon)

**Winners: (underground competition)**

◇ **BHP Ekati Diamond Mine** ◇

**Winners: (surface competition)**

◇ **BHP Ekati Diamond Mine** ◇

# 2012 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 15-16<sup>th</sup> 2012 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events. The Minto Mine from the Yukon Territory and the Meadowbank gold mine from Nunavut Territory were again invited to join in the competition.

## Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
  - DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine
- Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank Gold Mine (from Nunavut)
  - Capstone's Minto Mine (from the Yukon)

## Winners: (underground competition)

### ◇ Diavik Diamond Mine ◇

*Kelsey Loessl (captain), Nathan Pitre (vice captain), Brent Karstad, James Venera, Brad Rogers, Justin Grandjambe, Alex Clinton (coordinator), Tom Cheveldave (coach), John Arnold (coach).*

## Winners: (surface competition)

### ◇ BHP Ekati Diamond Mine ◇

*Peter Devolder (captain), Glynn Normore (vice captain), Darryl Klochko, Ryan Erickson, Donald Hebden, Gordon Frowen, Navid Taherdin, David English (coach)*



## 2013 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 14-15<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events. The Minto Mine from the Yukon Territory and the Meadowbank gold mine from Nunavut Territory were again invited to join in the competition.

### Competing Teams:

- BHP Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
    - DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine
    - North American Tungsten's Cantung Mine
- Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank Gold Mine (from Nunavut)
  - Capstone's Minto Mine (from the Yukon)

**Winners: (underground competition)**

◇ **BHP Ekati Diamond Mine** ◇

**Winners: (surface competition)**

◇ **BHP Ekati Diamond Mine** ◇

# 2014 NWT Mine Rescue Competition

The mine rescue events were held June 13-14<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Yellowknife Community Arena and Giant Mine property. All teams competed in both surface and underground events.

## Competing Teams:

- Dominion Diamond's Ekati Diamond Mine (2 teams, u/g and surface)
  - Diavik Diamond Mine
  - DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Mine
  - Capstone's Minto Mine (from the Yukon)

## Winners: (underground competition)

◇ **Dominion Diamond's Ekati  
Diamond Mine** ◇

## Winners: (surface competition)

◇ **Dominion Diamond's Ekati  
Diamond Mine** ◇