



NWT MINING HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER

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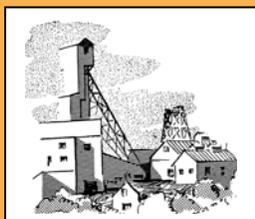
July

2010

The NWT Mining Heritage Society is a group dedicated to building a mining museum in Yellowknife. It was officially incorporated in July 2002.

The group owns several buildings at the old Giant Mine and plans on renovating the recreation hall first, followed by buildings at the A-shaft area.

The society has also begun development of outdoor displays at Giant, surrounding the public boat parking lot.



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Rec Hall Foundation Repairs Underway ✂

A small work crew led by Eddie Paul began excavation for a new concrete wall along the north side of the Recreation Hall at Giant Mine, the main museum building. The foundation repair will replace the rotting timber posts, constructed in the 1960s, with a concrete wall.

The original plan was to dig for bedrock and pin the concrete wall onto a solid foundation. Unfortunately, the bedrock in this area is deep under natural fill, but a concrete wall can still be erected with a modified design. Stay tuned for more updates.



Excavating a new foundation

Annual General Meeting June 9 ✂

The 2009/2010 annual general meeting of the Society was held on June 9 at the Giant Mine townsite parking lot. We welcomed Gord Piro and Deb Bain back onto the Board of Directors after many years. The BBQ social was well attended by members.

Of special note were two donations: a large collection of vintage cameras found at the local dump by Pattie Beales, and an old underground, blast-proof telephone from Giant Mine, reconditioned by Merlyn Williams and donated by Barry Taylor. Merlyn also donated two gold bar molds and a lead brick painted gold. Merlyn placed bets on how far people would get trying to carry the heavy, mock-gold brick with a single hand.



Gord Piro on the BBQ

Scenes from the Beer Barge

- Ryan Silke photos



The barge was 'sunk' but the boat arrived at 4:58



Great costumes...



...and great music



The party went till 11pm

This newsletter is published periodically as events are planned and organized. Please contact Stephen Clark at info@nwtminingheritage.com if you'd like to contribute photos or stories.

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Fundraising Updates

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J&R Mechanical Donation: The Society is pleased to announce they have received a \$5,000 donation from J&R Mechanical Ltd. Mike Vaydik, vice president of the Society, accepted the cheque from Joe Chorostkowski, one of the partners of J&R Mechanical. Mr. Chorostkowski has been an active volunteer of the NWT Mining Heritage Society for many years. We welcome J&R Mechanical's contribution to help us preserve mining heritage. The money will be used towards repairs to the

recreation hall foundation this summer.

Avalon Rare Metals: A special thanks to one of our corporate sponsors, Avalon Rare Metals, for donations towards the Society. Avalon pledged to donate \$12 for every guest attending its public open house on June 28, split evenly between its Yellowknife community partners, netting \$252 for the Society. They have also donated \$350 towards the Walter Gibbins Trust Fund.

Beer Barge 2010 a Great Party

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The second annual Beer Barge BBQ was another great success! We lucked out on beautiful weather which kept the beer flowing until 11pm. The boat docked at 4:58 after a brief struggle through shallow waters just off shore, but without the barge which, according to the friendly deck hands, was 'sunk', but it is suspected they turned pirate and hid the beer barge and its loot on Great Slave Lake. Thanks to **Dave Smith** and **Ed Eggenberger** for loaning us the boat!

Stage entertainment kept the partygoers hopping on the 'dance floor' all evening, with great bands including **Momentary Evolution**, **Randy Sibbeston**, and **Priscilla's Revenge**. Merlyn Williams also entertained the crowd with his legendary Woodyard stories.

A costume prize contest was held as many of the guests wore period clothing. Notable among these were Mike Vaydik as 'Tom Doornbos' the water carrier, Ian Vaydik as photographer Henry Busse, Mike Byrne as an underground gold miner, Brian Latham as a dapper businessman, and Penny Shaw and Velma Sterenberg as female prospectors. All contestants were judged by audience applause and the finalists re-judged by three of our Yellowknife Golden Girls. The winner was **Jaime Goddard** who wore a very styling vintage summer dress.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who made this event possible. A special thanks also goes out to the sponsors of the event: **Up Here Magazine** and **Outcrop Communications**, **Avalon Rare Metals** (who donated the prizes), **Weaver & Devore**, **Williams Engineering** (its staff manned the beer kegs), **Territorial Beverages**, **Lisa Tesar from Bottomline PR** (who sponsored the music), and **Northbest Distributors**. We would also like to thank **James Boraski** and **Norbert Poitras** for setting up the sound equipment, and **Garth Wallbridge** for being our emcee.

We hope to see you again next year!



David Connelly (centre) with Avalon Rare Metals, presents Mark Caswell and Carla de Kock with prizes for guessing when the barge would arrive. The prizes were **Bonny Madsen** prints of the ice road.

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

July 2010

