



NWT MINING HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER

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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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Contributions and Donors in 2010



The Society would again like to give thanks to our many donors and sponsors for a very active year in 2010. Our two trust funds continue to attract financial support from community members. Charitable donations from corporate sponsors continue to roll in, while donations of memorabilia and mining artifacts add to our collection. With your generous assistance, our mining museum becomes closer to reality!

Monetary Donations 2010

- Bill Robertson
- Dave Lovell
- J&R Mechanical
- Maureen (Squeak) Hall
- Glenn & Trish Warner
- Gordon Piro
- Robert Horal
- Dr. Ian Gilchrist

- Walt Humphries
- Duane & Susan Mather
- Sub Arctic Surveys

Donations to NWT Mining Heritage Trust Fund 2010

- Brian Yurris
- Patricia Rapley
- Ed Hoeve
- BHP Billiton Diamonds
- Anonymous

Donations to Walter Gibbins Trust Fund 2010

- Lou Covello
- Avalon Rare Metals
- Anonymous

For more information about our Trust Funds, please visit our website at www.nwtminingheritage.com/how-you-can-help/

New Mining Heritage Brochure



The Society is currently drafting a new brochure on mining heritage with grant money from GNWT Industry, Tourism and Investment. It will be a guide to mining heritage

resources in the Yellowknife area highlighting where you can learn more about geology, mining history, and where to find displays around town. Look for it this summer!

Yellowknife Heritage Week



Yellowknife Heritage Week is on February 20 to 26 this year. The NWT Mining Heritage Society is planning a **heritage video exhibition** on Thursday, February 24th at 7 pm at the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre. All members of the public are welcome to attend and watch mining heritage videos.

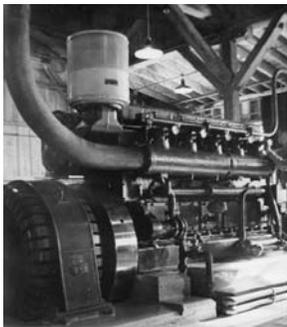
Some of the videos will include...

- 'Giant Yellowknife Gold Mine' 1954
- 'Northwest Neighbours' NFB 1958
- 'Yellowknife'
- 'Punch Dickens'
- 'Northwest by Air'

...and others to be decided.



**Rayrock uranium mine, 1958
(Gerry Hordal Collection)**



**Giant Mine diesel powerhouse,
1948. (Hugh Laughlin
Collection)**



**Construction at Giant Mine
(Allan Mackillop Collection)**



**Mechanized mining, 1960s
(Bill Lister Collection)**

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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The Con Cougars – Hockey Champs '64 x²

Director Ryan Silke recently sat down with Bob Balsillie in Yellowknife to document some of the city's early hockey history. Con Mine had a hockey team called the 'Cougars' and for many years they struggled to win the championship. Bob Balsillie was on the team in the 1963/1964 season when the Cougars came back from a 4-0 deficit in the second period to win the league trophy 5-4 against the Molson Indians. "It was a big party that night at the Con rec hall" Bob remembers.

Bob donated a hockey crest and some photographs which he hopes one day will be on display for all to remember the glory days of Yellowknife hockey. Thank you Bob for the memories!



**Con Cougars, 1963/1964 hockey
champs (courtesy Bob Balsillie)**



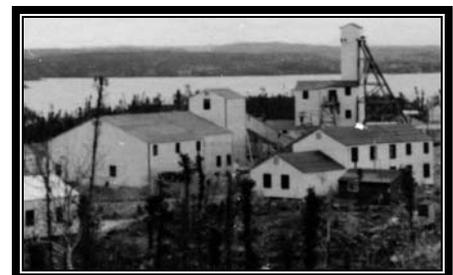
This Month in NWT Mining History x

In early February 1950, the first gold brick was poured at the Discovery Mine, 90 kilometers north of Yellowknife. Discovery was one of many post-war gold projects in the Yellowknife region. Most of them flopped after the dollar parity crisis in 1946 in which the market price of gold was essentially devalued, but the dedication of J.J. Byrne and his family of mining men saw that the money was available to finance exploration, eventually proving up a very rich orebody.

Ken Johnson was there for that very first gold pour. He shared his story with us a few years ago. "The Byrne boys came in when they poured the first brick so they invited us over for a little speech. Scotty, he was a funny guy. Norm called him over and told him to take the gold brick over to the office. Scotty gets out the door and the snow is deep there and he drops the gold bar in the snow bank! Here's

Scotty down there digging for the gold. He finally found it, but I don't think the managers knew about it. But I did and some of the other guys, but we didn't tell!" We were sorry to learn that Ken passed away earlier last year.

The Discovery mine went on to produce one million ounces of gold until closure in 1969.



**Discovery Mine in 1950 (from the
Ken Johnson collection)**

**2011 Memberships Now for Sale – Renew and support
mining heritage in the Northwest Territories!**