

## Tom Peters Memorial Mine Reclamation Award

### Tom Peters (1922-2007)



Tom Peters was a founding member of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) - established in 1975. He was President of the Association in 1981 – 82. In 1984, he won the CLRA's prestigious Noranda Land Reclamation Award for outstanding achievement in the field of land reclamation.

Tom graduated from the University of Guelph in 1948 and moved to Copper Cliff, Ontario where he worked in the agricultural department of Inco Limited (now Vale Inco), becoming their Agriculturist in 1973. Tom utilized his agricultural background to assist Inco with their tailings revegetation and overall land reclamation programs. He pioneered the use of agricultural practices in re-greening mine tailings, including the basic recipes for the addition of limestone, fertilizer, seed and the planting of fall rye as a cover crop. His work yielded excellent results on Inco's Copper Cliff tailings and his methods became the standard practice for mines all over the world.

Tom was a well-respected and gifted leader for environmental causes and was internationally recognized in the field of land reclamation and made major contributions to the City of Greater Sudbury Land Reclamation Program. He taught agricultural courses at the University of Guelph and Cambrian College, and contributed to reclamation courses at Laurentian University. He received an honorary doctorate from Laurentian University for his outstanding leadership in re-greening Sudbury. Tom retired in 1985, and in 1987, became the first non-American to be named "Reclamationist of the Year" by the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation.

The CLRA in cooperation with the Ontario Mining Association (OMA) and the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) has established the Tom Peters Memorial Mine Reclamation Award.

### Nominations

Nominations may be made by companies, individuals or organizations with respect to their own work or work completed by others, and the Award can be given for current activities (where sustainability can be clearly demonstrated) or past work.

In the nomination, documentation of the reclamation achievement must be clearly outlined, including the specific facts and reasons why the project or program stands apart from similar projects and merits recognition. The nomination should be in the form of a narrative, that provides the name and full contact information of the candidate, describes the specific job and techniques employed, and summarizes the basis and highlights of the exemplary performance. It should include several photographs and a map (indicate scale) of the site. The narrative must not exceed five (5) typed, single spaced pages. If available and applicable, at least one photograph should be an aerial or overview showing as much of the site as possible. All photographs should indicate the date when taken and should be coordinated with the map or aerial photograph of the site and the narrative. The attached nomination form may be used.

### Award Subcommittee

An Award Subcommittee Chaired by a representative of the CLRA (Ontario Chapter) will decide the winner of the Award. The Award Subcommittee will consist of a minimum of five members, representing the CLRA (2), OMA, MNDM and one member at large.

### General Criteria for Selection

The work on which the Reclamation Award is based may be either major or minor in extent, and may be the result of one person's activities or that of a group. The lead organization/ individual nominated to actually receive the award must be clearly indicated on the nomination form. The Award may recognize any/all of the following:

- Demonstrated quality of research
- Innovative techniques that advance the practice of mine reclamation in Ontario
- Quality of work undertaken
- Measurable outcome such as the area of land successfully reclaimed
- Work which has been completed over a number of years which, when taken together, is exceptional
- Outstanding effort by an individual practitioner in the promotion of mine reclamation.

The Award is specifically targeted to the reclamation of mines regulated by the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ontario Mining Act. Under the broad focus of mine reclamation, the following general categories are eligible for the award

- Exploration
- Mine Development
- Progressive Rehabilitation/Reclamation
- Mine Closure

*Note: The Award Subcommittee retains sole discretion in determining whether a nomination qualifies.*

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### The Award

The award will consist of a display trophy that includes a plaque with the winners name and year of award inscribed. This trophy will be retained on display at the MNM offices in Sudbury.

The winner will also be presented with a keeper trophy bearing the name of the award, the winner's name and the year won.

In addition, a \$5,000 bursary will be awarded in the winner's name to a Masters or PhD level student who is undertaking reclamation-related research involving a mine site in Ontario. The cash award will be provided by Vale Inco and will be administered through the Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association. An attempt will be made to have the winning student present a paper summarizing their research at a subsequent reclamation symposium. Other companies may contribute to the existing awards program or the development of additional awards and/or bursaries, in consultation with and at the final discretion of the Award Subcommittee.

At the discretion of the Award Subcommittee, special citations may also be given out to recognize submissions that were deemed excellent, but did not receive the Award.

### Recognition/Promotion

The Award will be given out annually at an OMA event. The winner will also be recognized at an Ontario reclamation conference/workshop, such as the proposed CLRA/OMA Mine Reclamation Symposium.

Information on Award winning nominations will be posted on the CLRA and OMA websites. In addition, an article describing the winning project will be submitted for publication in the CLRA's "Canadian Reclamation" magazine and other media.



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To encourage the pursuit of excellence in mine reclamation and to recognize and promote, to the mining industry and environmental community at large, outstanding achievement in the practice of mine reclamation in Ontario.

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