

# Innovation



**2006  
Westerman  
Winner**

**Peak Oil  
Production**

**Annual Conference  
Brochure Enclosed**

**Pine Beetle  
Attack and Changes  
in Streamflow**

# Pat McAndless PGeo

## Applying Passion and Persistence in All He Does

Andria Ink

"Passionate" and "persistent" are two words used frequently to describe APEGBC's 2006 C J Westerman Award Winner, Pat McAndless PGeo. With boundless energy, a devotion to his community, and direct involvement with his two children, this geoscientist never accepts "no" for an answer.

McAndless has had a self-professed love affair with rocks since elementary school. Graduating from UBC with an honours degree in geology in 1970, McAndless has over 35 years of experience in base and precious metal exploration for epithermal, porphyry, and massive sulphide deposits.

### Growing People

As Vice President of Exploration for Imperial Metals, McAndless oversees exploration and development programs, property evaluations and land management. In 2004, McAndless

was instrumental in developing a company mentoring program. Because he firmly believes that the future of the mining industry depends on its junior members, McAndless passes on his techniques, models, and knowledge to geology students and young graduates. "The best way to build and sustain our industry is to grow our people, and that means taking responsibility as individuals and as corporations to teach and pass on knowledge and skills to those who are entering the business," says McAndless, known for sharing his passion and knowledge of geology. He emphasizes that the passage of knowledge and experience beyond university classrooms through mentoring is the factor that provides the best opportunity for the growth of geoscience. Moreover, McAndless's unassuming office at Imperial Metals features a round table that acts as his desk. "It's important that anyone I



Pat McAndless says, "I speak to is on the same level as me — this is how we learn from each other," he says.

Chris Taylor, a junior project geologist at Imperial Metals, has benefited from McAndless's mentoring program. "Being mentored rather than simply supervised has brought my level of confidence to a point where it may not have otherwise reached for several years to come," says Taylor, who started working at Imperial Metal's Mount Polley project in 2004 and is now responsible for an exploration program in Nevada, using skills Taylor largely accredits to McAndless's mentoring. From the onset, McAndless gave Taylor a great deal of responsibility over his projects. Taylor feels that this style of mentoring has increased his creativity and incentive to succeed.

Fellow C J Westerman Award winner George Cavey PGeo (2004) echoes Taylor's enthusiasm for mentoring, stating that, without mentoring, the mining industry will not grow. "Mentoring is a difficult task for companies as it can take away resources from direct exploration. Pat is passionate about mentoring as he sees university graduates as the keys to our future," says Cavey.

#### Discovering the Northeast Zone

Serving on APEGBC's Geoscience and Enforcement committees from 1993 to 1995, McAndless has had a lasting impact on the profession of geoscience in many ways. By applying passion and persistence to his work in the field, McAndless discovered the Northeast Zone while prospecting in this under-explored area in 2003. "Pat's discovery of the new Northeast Zone was the direct result of good sound geological skill combined with persistence in following through from a geological concept to discovery by drilling. It is very rare for a geologist to find a deposit," explains Cavey.

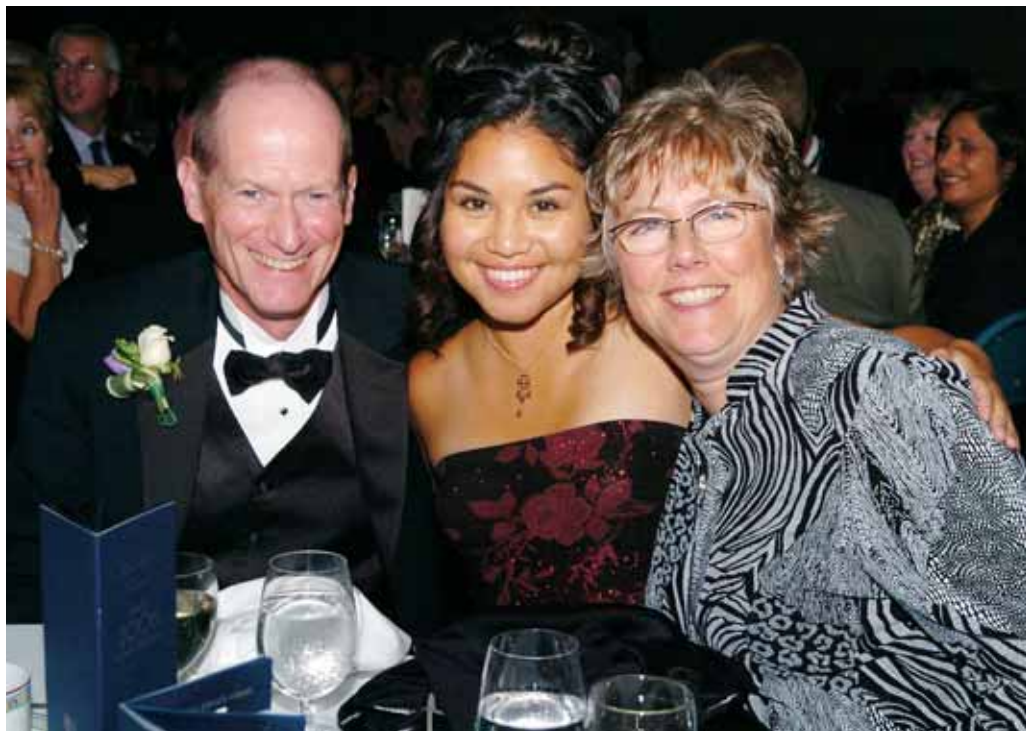
The Mount Polley discovery was significant in that this area had very little geophysical and geochemical signature, and that sophisticated exploration techniques were used, later yielding reserves of high-grade copper and gold. "The Northeast Zone discovery revitalized the exploration for alkalic porphyries, not just along the Quesnel Trough, but throughout other regions of the province as well," says Cavey. Consequently, this discovery led to the reopening of the Mount Polley mine, near Williams Lake, BC, which now employs over 300 people.

For this discovery, McAndless was awarded the highly coveted 2004 H H "Spud" Huestis Award for excellence in prospecting and mineral exploration by the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines and was named Northern BC Prospector of the Year in 2003.

McAndless was also instrumental in the discovery of a high-grade gold deposit in Nevada, 144 Zone. "I keep believing that there's a deposit down there somewhere," he says of his enthusiastic optimism. McAndless credits his profound optimism to his mother, and has made his motto: "Nobody or nothing gets my day."

#### A Passion For Life

With his roots in northern and southern Ireland, it is no wonder that McAndless has a strong passion for Irish dance. His daughter Kali, 19, has danced competitively with the Nora Pickett Irish Dance Academy for over 8 years and recently competed at the World Championships in Glasgow. Never being one to sit on the sidelines, McAndless dove right into supporting this activity, helping to create a wireless sound system and a portable outdoor stage for the dancers. During St Patrick's Day festivities in March 2007, McAndless was the sound technician for a dozen shows over two days. McAndless also sits on



*Opposite (right to left): Pat McAndless PGeo, recipient of the 2006 C J Westerman Memorial Award, with Dr Chris Rees PGeo and Steve Robertson PGeo.*

McAndless with daughter Kali and wife Sherri at the 2006 APEGBC Annual Conference in Victoria where McAndless received the C J Westerman Memorial Award.



*Left:* A self-professed love affair with rocks that started in elementary school ultimately led to McAndless's discovery of the Northeast Zone in 2003. *Right:* As Vice President, Exploration for Imperial Metals, McAndless oversees exploration and development programs, property evaluations and land management.

the board of directors of the Eire Born Irish Dance Society and actively fundraises for the dance troop.

Never far from a stage or microphone system, McAndless also sits on the Board of Directors for the Richmond Gateway Theatre. At productions, McAndless sports a top hat for his greeting and emcee roles at the theatre.

One may wonder how McAndless keeps his work, family, and community service in balance and still finds the energy to fuel his passion for his very active lifestyle. "My family is first and foremost," says McAndless. "I don't drag my work home; my family is the most important to me." A competitive runner, McAndless, approaches his health with the same passion, exercising daily in the early morning and maintaining a balanced diet.

Even while optimistic and passionate, McAndless faced great difficulty in completing the international adoption of his son Taylor, 16, from Chile in 1990. Having successfully adopted his daughter Kali from Chile two years earlier, McAndless and his wife Sherri were thrilled when the Chilean Human Resources Department contacted them with an opportunity to adopt a boy. Upon arriving in Chile

to meet his then 3-month old son, McAndless's resolve and passion were challenged as he was repeatedly told by Chilean lawyers and human resources agents that the adoption would not proceed despite having been invited to make the adoption.

This response was unacceptable to McAndless, and after six months of bureaucratic challenges, he finally had the necessary paperwork in order to return to Canada with his son. Like his sister and father, Taylor is never far from a stage himself, singing in the Vancouver Soul Gospel Choir, and McRoberts Jazz/Chamber Choir.

McAndless is not one to create detailed life plans. Instead, he is comfortable wandering around in the unknown, much like the exploration aspect of his profession. "As long as I'm passionate about what I'm doing, I have no expectations," says McAndless.

This passion and persistence has yielded McAndless a gold mine, both literally and figuratively, with a family and mentoring legacy to be proud of. Of his colleague, Cavey says: "Pat is the ideal leader of our business that young geologists should look up to for inspiration." ■



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