The Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 NWOPA awards, which were awarded at the 2025 Ontario Prospectors & Explorers Symposium at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

Since 2001, NWOPA has presented awards recognizing lifetime achievements, mineral discoveries and mine developments.

The Dave Christianson Lifetime Achievement is based upon cumulative work, discoveries and contributions to the prospecting, exploration and mining community of Northwestern Ontario. The Bernie Schnieders Discovery of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional discovery in Northwestern Ontario during the previous calendar year. The Developer of the Year Award recognizing an outstanding mineral development during the previous calendar year. In 2010, NWOPA added the Dan Calvert Distinguished Service Award to acknowledge exceptional service to the mineral exploration community. The award was named in honour of Dan Calvert; both him and Dave Christianson were long-time prospectors and supporters of mineral exploration in Northwestern Ontario.

On behalf of NWOPA, the Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2024 recipients:

Dan Calvert Distinguished Service Award: John Mason
Dave Christianson Lifetime Achievement Award: Jim Parres
Bernie Schnieders Discovery of the Year: Libra Energy Materials (Soules Bay-Caron project)
Developer of the Year: Alamos Gold Inc. (Island Gold District).

Also at the awards ceremony, Lakehead University presented the Bernie Schnieders Memorial Award scholarship to Jason Dyer and Hanna Tiitto.

Details about the award recipients are attached. For further information about these awards, do not hesitate to contact me.

Justin Jonsson
Chair, NWOPA Awards Committee
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LIBRA ENERGY MATERIALS

Libra Energy Materials, formerly known as Libra Lithium, is a private exploration company with projects spanning Northwest Ontario and Quebec. The company was co-founded in 2022 by Koby Kushner and Ben Kuzmich with the support of David and Mark Goodman.

The company started exploring the Soules Bay-Caron project (optioned from Bounty Gold Corp.) in 2023 as a conceptual grassroots project. A 12-day helicopter-supported prospecting program in spring 2024 yielded the discovery of 18 new spodumene pegmatites across a 12 km trend, with widths reaching up to 30 metres. The spodumene largely occurred as pristine white crystals up to 18 inches long - comprising 20-25% of the pegmatites, with grab sample results later confirming the discovery and returning up to 6.64% Li2O

On the heels of this discovery, Libra completed a $33M earn-in agreement in early 2025 encompassing the Soules Bay-Caron, Flanders South, and Flanders North properties with KoBold Metals, a prominent private American exploration company that will commence exploration on these properties in summer 2025. The company is planning for a public listing on the CSE in June 2025.

ALAMOS GOLD INC.

Alamos Gold Inc. is an intermediate-tier gold miner with four producing assets in the Americas, including 3 in Ontario. Alamos operated the Island underground mine and in the first half of 2024, Alamos acquired Argonaut Gold and its primary asset, the Magino open-pit mine, creating the “Island Gold District”. The company has been consistently expanding its operations in the past several years, hitting records in gold production, revenue, and free cash flow in 2024. 2024 production at the Island Gold District totalled 188 koz – 155 koz at Island and 33 koz from its 6 months ownership of Magino. The company is guiding for 275-300 koz from the Island district in 2025. AISC at the Island Mine is among the lowest in the industry at $865/oz. Exploration at Island Gold has also been significant, with combined Mineral Resources and Reserves increasing 9% in 2024 – 2.3 Moz at 11.4 g/t Au for its Indicated Mineral Reserves, and 3.8 Moz at 16.5 g/t Au for its Inferred Mineral Resources.

Since 2022, the company has been carrying out a Phase 3 Expansion at the Island Gold Mine, which is being internally funded and included over $200M on growth-focused capital expenditures in 2024 alone. These operations include a shaft sinking (to transition from trucking ore to skipping ore), mill expansion, ventilation upgrade, construction of a paste plant, accelerated underground development, a haul road to the Magino mill. Shaft sinking has been advanced to over 1,000 m depth to date, and is expected to reach targeted depth of 1,373 m in Q3 2025. Since acquiring Argonaut

Gold, Alamos has realized significant synergies - for example, cancelling planned mill and tailings expansion at Island and using Magino's infrastructure instead. This expansion has already resulted in increased production at the Island Gold District, which is expected to multiply further in the years ahead.

JOHN MASON

John Mason has, until recently, been a lifelong Thunder Bay resident. His father worked in forestry and John spent a lot of time outdoors growing up, opting to study the rocks instead of the trees. He graduated from Lakehead University in 1975 with a Bachelor's in Geology, and began working with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines began in the 1970's. He worked in a number of positions in the Ministry, spending most of the 1980s an Economic Geologist and Resource Geologist in charge of data series maps project and limestone study. Starting in 1987, he spent 15 years as the Resident Geologist for the Thunder Bay North district. He then spent 8 years as the Regional Manager of the Resident Geologist Program, before retiring from the government in 2011.

John's career culminated in a 11-year stint as the Project Manager, Mining Services for the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, otherwise known as the CEDC. This role was created specifically for him, to help build the city's Mining Readiness Strategy which regards infrastructure, workforce readiness, supply and service provision, and academic collaborations. John retired from this position in 2022 and now works as an independent consultant.

John has long been one of the best known "mining people" in the Thunder Bay area, both by mining professionals and non-professionals alike. John's service to the mining industry in northwestern Ontario includes serving on the Mining Day committee, time as chair of the Mining and Exploration Subcommittee at Lakehead University, and 4 years the Chair of the university's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (or CESME). Outside of the industry, John served as chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

John was awarded an honourary Doctor of Science from Lakehead University in 2013. Today's award is John's second honour from NWOPA, having received the Lifetime Achievement award in 2010 – becoming the first person other than Dan Calvert and Dave Christianson to receive both awards.

John moved to Bracebridge upon retirement to be closer to family. He couldn't make it to the Symposium this year, but Gerry White is here to accept the award on his behalf and say a few words.

JIM PARRES

Jim Parres was born in Timmins, ON and raised in Flin Flon, MB in a mining family. His grandfather made the discovery at Snow Lake, MB in 1924 that would eventually become the Nor-Acme/New Britannia mine, his father made a long career as a geologist and mining company executive, and his uncle was a geological engineer. It's no surprise that Jim started prospecting at an early age, getting into the field in his teenage years with his family. His achievements in these early years include co-discovering the Pine Bay VMS deposit near Flin Flon with his father in the 1960s, working on the Hanson Lake and Knife Lake VMS deposits (also in the Flin Flon area), exploring for iron in northern Saskatchewan, and niobium in northeastern Ontario.

Jim went back to school and graduated from 1974 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Advanced Geology in University of Saskatchewan. His work as an independent prospector and geologist in Ontario dates back 60+ years, spending time working in the James Bay Lowlands, Kirkland Lake, Timmins areas. Closer to home for us in this rooms, he has carried out many exploration programs in the Shebandowan, Beardmore-Geraldton, and Georgia Lake areas, and remains active with a portfolio of claim packages with a focus on the Beardmore-Geraldton area.

Jim first moved into the boardroom in the 1980s as president of Shiningtree Gold Resources Inc., where he oversaw exploration projects across Ontario including in the Marathon area, as well as the company's namesake property that is currently being advanced by PTX Metals Inc. He has been an officer or director of six public companies active across Canada, including the northwestern Ontario-focused Edda Resources and Goldhunter Exploration. He was also at the helm of Copperquest Ltd., which carried out multi-million dollar drill programs on the Knife Lake deposit in Saskatchewan, and Strike Minerals. In 2009, Jim founded Jiminex Inc., and was active with this company for 10+ years, exploring for gold in the Hemlo and Pickle Lake camps, among others.

Jim has been an active and well-known member of the exploration community in Thunder Bay for decades. In addition to his activity in Ontario, Jim is passionate about preserving Manitoba's mining history and has written two books on the subject: The Nor-Acme Gold Mine Story and Headframes, Happiness, and Heartaches