

# **Congratulations to K.L.Gold**

*(Editorial printed in the Northern Daily News on Monday, March 29th, 2004)*

**K**irkland Lake Gold has proven that is just as efficient at operating safely as it is at uncovering new gold reserves.

The company was honored - along with Agrium Mines- on Thursday night in Timmins with the Angus Campbell Award - The Stanley Cup of mine safety. The award was presented during a Mine Safety Award banquet at the Porcupine Dante Club, organized by the Porcupine Northeastern Ontario Mine Safety Group.

The Group's mandate is to try and eliminate fatalities and serious accidents in the mining industry and it holds competitions annually to allow mine rescue crews and others in the industry to hone their skills. Information compiled by the Mines And Aggregates Safety and Health Association during 2003 formed the basis for selection of the awards. It looked at the number of shifts worked and the amount of lost-time injuries incurred by each of the mines.

The statistics revealed the workforce for companies such as Kirkland Lake Gold, Agrium, Luzenac, PVJ, Kidd Creek, Barrick and Holloway employed a workforce of 1, 739 during 2003. That resulted in more than 3 347, 000 hours being worked for the year, with 124 medical aid injuries (this includes any worker who visits a health care professional) For every 200, 000 hours worked there were 7.4 medical injury incidents. That is slightly better than the province - wide average of 8.3 medical incidents for every 200, 000 hours worked. The lost - time injury frequency for every 200, 000 hours worked was equal to 0.f.

Both Kirkland Lake Gold and Agrium Mines incurred zero lost- time accidents during that period of time, resulting in them sharing the Angus Campbell Award. That is a significant accomplishment and one which shows that Kirkland Lake Gold takes safety seriously and is committed to operating in a safe and efficient fashion. It is also further evidence that Kirkland Lake Gold is an outstanding corporate citizen- placing a high priority on the safety of the citizens of this community that it employs. This commitment to safety runs from top to bottom and involves the ownership, management and all employees of the company.

Without everyone being on the same page and making mine safety a top priority there is no way a perfect record such as this can be achieved. Everyone involved in Kirkland Lake Gold- from its biggest shareholders to its lowest ranked employees- should be proud of what they have accomplished. Hopefully 2004 will prove to be just as safe as 2003 for Kirkland Lake Gold and all of its employees.

We join everyone in Kirkland Lake in offering our congratulations to the company and its employees on such a wonderful accomplishment.