

Continuing MoT's Environmental Excellence

Submitted by Len Sielecki, Environmental Issues Analyst, Engineering Branch

The Ministry's Chief Environmental Officer, Mike Kent, recently retired after over 28 years of service with the Ministry. Mike directed the Environmental Management Section of the Engineering Branch at Headquarters. Over the course of his career, Mike was a champion for environmentally sustainable transportation. Consequently, the Ministry has been left a legacy of environmental stewardship initiatives. Mike worked with Dirk Nyland, Chief Engineer, and Sean Wong, Environmental Coordinator, to develop the Ministry's award winning Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF). The EEF has received accolades from numerous environmental agencies and organizations, including the Federal Department of Fisheries and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. For the EEF, the Ministry recently won Ducks Unlimited's most prestigious award, the Platinum Award, and the Transportation Association of Canada's Environmental Achievement Award, an award highly coveted by transportation agencies across Canada.

Taking over the role of Chief Environmental Officer is Angela Buckingham. Angela has worked on the environmental components of the Ministry's major projects over the last 20 years. From all phases of the Coquihalla Highway, to the Lions Gate Bridge and the Greenville to Kincolith Highway, and now the Gateway Program and the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project (STSHIP), Angela brings a wealth of experience to the Environmental Management Section. Angela's approach to building working relationships between Ministry staff, regulatory agencies, environmental groups and the general public has enabled the Ministry to successfully deliver environmentally sustainable projects. A key component of her success has been providing services to Ministry Project teams, and Regional and District staff, something Angela wants to continue and expand by encouraging communication and dialogue.

Angela's staff includes Marni Fedoruk (Project Analyst), Sean Wong, (Environmental Coordinator), Al Planiden (Roadside Manager) and Len Sielecki (Environmental Issues Analyst). Currently, Marni is working extensively on the Gateway Project and the STSHIP. As the Ministry's fisheries expert, Sean has been instrumental in the success of the Ministry's partnerships to protect and enhance the Province's fish habitat. Al is the Ministry's expert on roadside management issues and is responsible for the Ministry's environmental best management practices for highway maintenance activities. Len continues to be the Ministry's expert on wildlife accident mitigation, as well as representing the Ministry on environment-oriented inter-ministry committees.

The Ministry, already a pioneer and leader in environmental initiatives among transportation agencies globally, is continuing to raise the bar for environmental excellence to meet the challenges of ensuring British Columbia continues to be "The Best Place on Earth".



Spring in the South Peace?

It's been quite a winter in BC and it hasn't left the Peace area yet as can be seen from this photo during the third week of March. Photo provided by Jim Guthrie, District Manager.