Winter in British Columbia

I was gratefully overwhelmed with beautiful British Columbia winter photos, receiving 18 submissions. We're only able to include a sample of those received and hope they are a reminder of why we can all appreciate where we live.

Thanks to all the great photographers out there!

– Cindi Trowbridge
A note from the editor…

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this winter 2005-06 issue of the Road Runner. Everyone’s enthusiasm and appreciation for the role the Road Runner plays in MoT’s culture is very much appreciated.

“Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day say, “I will try again tomorrow.”

– Mary Anne Radmacher, Writer

Quiet courage speaks volumes to yourself, moving you towards success especially when work is the most challenging. It also speaks to others that may be “listening”.

– Cindi Trowbridge

CVSE
Rememberance Day in Golden

Inspectors from the Golden Inspection Station attend the Remembrance Day Ceremonies November 11, 2005. The Inspectors laid a wreath on behalf of MoT, Rocky Mountain District.

The Inspectors are: (left to right) Blair Smith; Elizabeth Keam; Brian Austin; Doreen McAllister.
The clock is ticking...your boss’s presentation begins in one hour and you still haven’t found that perfect shot you need for the opening slide of the PowerPoint presentation. Relax...The Image Gallery has been created to help you search for that perfect photo quickly and easily, and is as close as the Ministry of Transportation’s Intranet site.

Deputy Minister John Dyble had the vision of developing an online collection of photos and imagery representing transportation in British Columbia. He called on Al Szczawinski’s Engineering Systems Group to design it, and Netscribe Communications was contracted to build the data base. John’s vision has now been achieved – the Ministry of Transportation Image Gallery was officially launched in November.


The Image Gallery, boasting over 3,000 images is an online collection of searchable transportation-related photos and imagery provided exclusively by Ministry of Transportation employees. The imagery in the database consists of transportation photos, illustrations, maps, videos and PowerPoint presentations on a variety of topics. Typical topics include avalanche, construction, environment, geotechnical, highway scenics, historical, maintenance, and traffic plus much more.

The Image Gallery allows you to search for images by categories, keywords or specific details. You can be as general or as specific in your search as you want to be. Perform a search for photos on general construction, on a specific highway, or by a certain photographer. The search feature will provide you with a variety of photos to use in ministry presentations, publications, displays and promotion.

What makes the new Image Gallery unique is that the imagery is provided by MoT employees for MoT employees. Heather Mondin, Image Gallery Administrator, along with the help of the Engineering Systems Group, has already submitted thousands of images, most of which have been taken by our own ministry employees (including Ron Wiebe and others who have submitted some great photos).

So how do you provide photos and imagery to the Image Gallery? Simple. As a Ministry of Transportation employee, you automatically become a “Provider” when you submit your first photo to the Image Gallery. Images can be submitted from any computer, as long as you have access to the Intranet site through a secure network environment, whether it is from home or while travelling with your laptop.
Image Gallery (continued)

The Image Gallery is your new source for MoT’s finest transportation-related photos so search those hard drives for your best, most representative transportation images – the ones that tell a story, describe an event, portray an idea, illustrate a concept and show British Columbia at its rugged best, and send them in!

When submitting imagery to the Gallery, optional fill-in fields allow you to include as much information relevant to the photo as possible, including, the date, location, description, and photographer. (The more information you provide, the easier it is for others to find your photo!)

There is even a comprehensive FAQs page that has been designed to answer questions about photo usage, searching, copyright, submitting photos and general information. You can view the FAQs page at:


Robson River Bridge

One for the MoT History Books

Kevin Richter new Regional Director, Southern Interior Region passing the torch to Dave Duncan new Regional Director, Northern Region on October 27, 2005.
Food and Stress Workshop held in Victoria

Submitted by Elizabeth Young, Business Coordinator, Human Resources Branch

Are you feeling stressed? Do you ever wonder how you could feel better, be more productive and maybe even sleep better at night?

These are questions Leah Hawirko, with Thrive in 5, addressed in her workshop for 30 Transportation employees November 9th. Leah is a registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and this workshop promoted optimal health and the lowering of cortisol levels through diet and exercise.

The session was part of a 5 part-prize package for the ‘Well Balanced Employee’ with a value of $3900 that was won by Lori Sutton at the 2005 BCHRMA Conference in Vancouver.

The workshop described how modern use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers, preservatives and over processing robs food of its nutrition. This makes it very important to examine not just what we eat but what we don’t eat.

We can fill ourselves up with empty calories and neglect the foods containing the fiber, vitamins and minerals we need.

I think everyone went away with a few new pieces of information and the encouragement to make at least some small changes in their life style. I know I stopped in at the health food store on the way home and picked up a bottle of multi vitamins and a bottle of flax oil. Mixed with a little balsamic vinegar it made a lovely nutty tasting salad dressing and hey ... I can now cut back on my daily fish oil intake.

While this workshop was taking place five lucky people were experiencing ‘Emotional Awareness Consultations’ which included a massage and discussion of how daily events can manifest themselves in tension in the body with Hilary Mackey. Four more names were drawn to win an hour of ‘Personal Coaching’ with Laurel van Pander. Laurel, recently voted one of Vancouver’s top twenty most influential businesswomen, does personal, career and financial coaching.

The managers of the Construction and Maintenance Branch were able to participate in a ‘Motivation and Teamwork for Managers’ session with Donna Snell in October, and a Teambuilding Event with LifeWorks Health Systems has been offered to the Highways Department Finance and Administration Section.

Thrive in 5 offers innovative tailored wellness programs that support the goals of our People Plan and our Employee Advisory Forum. If your business unit is interested in holding a similar session, or working on team building with your managers or co-workers, contact Leah at (604) 983-0341 and visit their website at http://www.thrivein5.com/

Leah Hawirko and Hilary Mackey
Fred Downer’s and Bill Shovar’s Crews Recognized for Work on the Cariboo Connector

Submitted by Mike Newton, Manager Field Services

Shanna Mason, Field Services Director and Mike Newton, Manager Field Services hosted a recognition dinner for Fred Downer and Bill Shovar’s crews for the outstanding work they have done this season on the Hwy 97 corridor. Fred’s crew successfully completed a project at Lac La Hache where 6 km of Hwy 97 was upgraded by shoulder widening; access management through construction of frontage roads, and a pedestrian underpass was installed for campers using the provincial park to access Lac La Hache. The project was constructed by Dawson Construction Ltd.

At 103 Mile, median barrier was installed on Hwy 97 in an area prone to head-on collisions. This project was constructed by day labour and paved by Peters Bros. It faced all sorts of challenges from dealing with buried telephone cables during a Telus strike, working around the telephone poles, and installing storm drains where the asphalt was over 0.6 metres thick. This project was administered jointly through Bill Shovar and Fred Downer and through very hard work and dedication by all; the project was completed before the onset of winter.

Fred’s crew also took on a project at 143 Mile called Fletchers passing lane. It was constructed by Peters Bros. and resulted in 4-laning of about 4 km of Hwy 97. This project was also chased by the onset of winter and was delivered successfully before the snow began to fall.

Further north on Hwy 97 by Stoner, Bill Shovar began the construction of 4 km of passing lane. The construction was by day labour where the clearing and grubbing and stripping were done in preparation for the tendering of a major works contract. The contract was tendered and awarded in late summer, however, due to the Telus strike; very little work was done in the fall. The project will be completed by July of 2006.

While doing all this work on Hwy 97, the crews also managed to construct projects on Hwy 16 at Jutland Road and on Hwy 24 by Lone Butte.

Congratulations to all crew members who helped to deliver this aggressive program. Thanks to all the project managers for their support in helping to develop and implement this program for improvements to Hwy 97 through the Cariboo Connector.

Left to right: Mike Newton, Shanna Mason, Tom Murphy, Alana Downer, Fred Downer, Randy Rattray, and Craig McLeod. Missing from photo is Bill Shovar, Osmo Joronen, Bob Biagoni, and Ross Bain.
Did You Spot the Violation?

Submitted by CVSE staff

Did you spot the violation in this CVSE photo from the fall 2005 issue of the Road Runner? Here are the guesses that were submitted:

Lois Parkes, Corporate Writing Services:
“It’s clear...they broke my father’s first rule of the road... keep the shine side up and the rubber side down!”

Leon Johnson, Field Services:
“That’s a new construction company in Kamloops...Big Bang Theory Home Construction Ltd.”

Graeme Cross, Southern Interior Region:
“I see at least three violations and possible a fourth.

The Guardrail Placement Guidelines, October 2003 states:

1. Don’t leave gaps less than 60 m between adjacent sections of continuous barrier; and,
2. Don’t place multiple short sections of barrier, place one continuous section instead
3. Also, the W-54R hazard marker should be placed at the start of the flare – the point where the concrete roadside barrier is closest to the travelled lane – and not at the end of the flare.

4. Concrete roadside barrier is often not warranted on the inside of a curve.”

Brad Kurucz, Haig Scale:
“Motor Vehicle Act section 155(1)(a) states: A driver must drive to the right of a double solid centre line. Clearly this vehicle has crossed the centre line, though it would be a hard ticket to prosecute in court, as there were no witnesses.”

Greg Mertton, Properties and Business Management:
“It is obvious to anyone that the violation is using a vehicle unsuitable for off-road applications.”

The Winner
Drum roll please...the winner of the most humorous response as determined by Kim Knotts and John Burns, Commercial Transport Inspectors at the Haig Scale is... Greg Mertton. Congratulations, Greg!

New Photo

On the left is CVSE’s new photo for this issue’s contest.

Can you spot the violation in this photo? Submit your ideas to Kim.Knott@gov.bc.ca or John.Burns@gov.bc.ca. They’ll choose the most humorous responses for the next issue of the Road Runner.
Imagine working at a job where you feel physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually fulfilled. According to the Canadian Healthy Workplace Council, factors such as good leadership, communication, job design and decision-making styles are good for a worker’s overall health. Healthy workers, in turn, ultimately make up healthy organizations.

In an effort to promote organizational health, the South Coast Regional Occupational Safety & Health Committee offered the “Highway to Living Well Challenge” (developed from the Living Well! Cross Canada Challenge). The self-tracking challenge was to earn kilometres (points) by engaging in healthy activities from five categories within seven days. The categories included: Active Lifestyle; Nutrition; Ounce of Prevention; Work-Life Balance; and Workplace Health. Each activity had kilometers allocated to it.

Each day an article that related to one of the categories was distributed to the South Coast Regional office and Lower Mainland District office. As well, there were wellness activities planned which included:

- Coffee break walks – staff were encouraged to leave their desks for some exercise
- Crib tournament – arranged during lunch break, healthy competition is good for everyone
- Book exchange – to promote taking time to read for pleasure
- Inspiration-joke-quote board – “laughter is the best medicine”
- Salvation Army donation barrels – doing good for others increases your own health and happiness

Each one of us has the ability to make our workplace a better one. Cultivating a healthy work environment requires the efforts of every person in an organization. Shifting your attention can reduce stress, improve personal balance, and promote a healthy culture at work.

Thanks to the Regional OSH Committee (Jackie Chambers, Pat Cruickshank, Dianne Friend, Nash Jamal) for their encouragement and support, to the many staff members that wrote articles, organized the crib tournament, book exchange and luncheon, and to the LMD staff who organized activities at their office. Also thanks, to all the participants in the “Highway to Living Well Challenge”. Participation was excellent and the Regional OSH Committee is committed to support and encourage future activities.
Canada’s Healthy Workplace Week (continued)

Congratulations to Anne Hazelwood, CVSE, Haig Inspection Station, for accumulating 4,240 kilometres. Anne credits her dog for getting her out for walks and has started running as well. She also schedules a workout program, aqua-fit classes, swimming and step aerobics into her days. Being that she works different shifts at a weigh scale outside of Hope, she has to pre-plan her meals, which gives her the opportunity to make healthy choices. Way to go Anne, keep up the good work!

The Healthy Workplace Week website offers ideas and activities to enhance personal well-being:
www.healthyworkplaceweek.ca

If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

The process of promoting health should be fun, just as your day-to-day work should be a physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and a spiritually healthy experience.

Terrace Hosts Science World Celebration

Submitted by Skeena District

Skeena District recently partnered with the Northwest Science and Innovation Society and others to bring Science World to northwestern BC. A team of 12 Science World staff from Vancouver spent just over a week blitzing schools in Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, New Hazelton, Kitwanga, New Aiyansh and Kitkatla, serving up a collection of whiz-bang demos and experiments promoting careers in science. They presented to more than four thousand students in both elementary and secondary schools.

The week concluded on Saturday with a Science Celebration at Northwest Community College featuring more than 20 different employers and institutions in the northwest that reap the benefits of science in their everyday operations.

More than 3,000 people attended, many of them students and future MoT prospects (not bad attendance for a city of 12,000). Our Strategic HR Group in Victoria provided the ministry display and it promoted our TELP, EIT, MDP and Summer Student programs. The local maintenance contractor, Nechako Northcoast, joined in with demos of weather forecasting, RWIS and our frost probe-monitoring systems.

Pictured are Skeena DMT Don Ramsay and son Peter (12) manning the MoT display and Nechako Northcoast’s Operations Manager, Dan Beaulac, providing weather demos.
There’s No Moss Gathering in the South Cariboo

Submitted by Todd Hubner, District Manager Transportation

There is an old adage that states, “A rolling stone gathers no moss”. Well over the last 2.5 months, Al Mitchell, Roads Area Manager for the Lillooet Area of the Cariboo District has found this out first hand. Al recently re-joined the Ministry after a 3-year hiatus of furthering his education at the University College in Kelowna, as well as working for a geotechnical consulting firm. Al originally got his start with the Ministry in 1991, working with the geotechnical group in Kamloops with both the drill crew and the gravel management group.

Over the last 2.5 months, Al has had four major rock falls and subsequent closures on all of the major routes that he is responsible for. These include: Road 40, Highway 99, Highway 12 and Highway 1 south of Ashcroft. He recently had his first debris flow on Highway 12 as well.

(Rumor has it that Al was recently spotted looking for even the faintest signs of lichen in his area, on the premise that just maybe, his part of the district may have finally reached some form of stability).

HWY 12 Rockslide

HWY 12 Debris Flow

HWY 1 Rockfall
Horsin’ Around in the Rocky Mountain District

Submitted by Rocky Mountain District staff

On December 6, 2005, the Rocky Mountain District hosted a staff meeting at the Railway Museum in Cranbrook, B.C.

All Rocky Mountain District staff, including the new Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement team assembled in the Railway Museum, enhancing or destroying (your choice) the beauty and tranquility of the meeting room. Introductions were done, and a warm welcome was given by District Manager, Jack Bennetto.

Kevin Richter, the new Regional Director of the Southern Interior Region, was also on hand with a very upbeat presentation, welcoming Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Staff into the Ministry, once again, and this time to stay!

Presentations from Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Staff, Wallace Smith and Glenn Taylor were well received and gave others an insight into CVSE programs.

Other presentations during the day were from Gordon Botha, and Jim Richardson on planning directions in the district.

A fantastic social was held after the day’s event. Operations Manager, Gordon Chudleigh, (known as Mr. Gordon Cuddly by some of his customers in the District) managed a horse betting / racing event, where fun was had by all. Gerd Cuddly money was circulated as betting fare, for all betting on their favorite horse in the First Annual Rocky Mountain District Triple Crown.

Fun was definitely had by all, as Joanne Sutton, CVSE District Manager, and her faithful steed, Ol’ Windy trampled the competition.
David Nadin: A New Face in Clearwater

Welcome to David Nadin, the new Area Manager for Barriere, Clearwater. David brings a solid background in project and contract management to the Ministry gained from 20 years in the private sector.

David and his family are preparing for the move to the Clearwater office, which they hope to complete by the middle of January. His two boys Brandon and Parker are excited about the move, given the increased possibility of a snowmobile and motorbike. David’s wife, Deleah, is looking forward to acquiring a horse again, which she has missed since moving to Kamloops 5 years ago.

Good Samaritan Efforts Get Recognition

Staff in the Ministry of Transportation often go the extra mile in their service to the public. The following letter was written to Minister Falcon regarding Earl Nygaard’s “Good Samaritan” efforts. Earl is an area manager in Merritt.

September 28, 2005

Hon. Kevin Falcon
Minister of Transportation

Dear Mr. Falcon:

A year ago when my husband and I were enroute to Vancouver for an appointment at the BC Cancer Clinic, our car broke down on the Coquihalla between the Logan Lake exit and Merritt. With a non-operating cell phone and no way to call for assistance, we watched cars whiz past and wondered how we would ever manage to make our appointment. Help arrived in the form of Earl Nygaard, CTech, Area Manager of Roads, Merritt North. Mr. Nygaard used his radio-telephone to have a tow truck dispatched and arranged a time to have our vehicle checked at garage in Merritt. Three hours after we were towed into Merritt we were back on the road to Vancouver, on time to make our appointment. None of this would have been possible without Mr. Nygaard’s help.

He truly was a Good Samaritan.

It has taken me a long time to write to express my gratitude, but I haven’t forgotten Mr. Nygaard’s help. During the past months I have undergone successful treatment and surgery for my cancer. My positive outcome was a result of many people working together to ‘get me well again’. I count Mr. Nygaard as one of these and, through this letter, express my gratitude.

Sincerely,

Donalda Reid

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/roadrunners/index-roadrunners.htm
International Geography Awareness Week: GIS Day

Submitted by Jean Bishop, RIMS Program Lead, Construction & Maintenance, Victoria

Every year since 1987, the National Geographic Society has been promoting the importance of Geography and GIS to the public in North America during Geography Awareness Week (GAW).

GIS Day (www.gisday.com) is part of Geography Awareness Week (GIS day falls on the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week) and is an event that recognizes the practice of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users and vendors.

Some organizations open their doors to schools, businesses, and the general public to showcase real-world applications of this important technology. This year the Victoria office of MoT held an internal event for our inaugural GIS Day which was held on November 16th.

10 Business Areas participated by setting up stations around the building showcasing the applications that they use everyday:

1. **LRDW presented by Valerie Bell** – The Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW) is the corporate repository for integrated land, resource and geographic data that supports a variety of business requirements for the natural resource sector, other government agencies, industry and the public. http://www.lrdw.ca/

2. **TIG presented by Jerry Gerrard** – The traffic data presented from this web page show the summary statistics at approximately 2500 locations around the province. The application’s name is TIG (Traffic Information Geographical Information System), which allows you to zoom into areas of interest using a map and select traffic count locations from which you can download their summary traffic data. http://maps.tig.th.gov.bc.ca/ and http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/trafficData/

3. **SIG presented by Chuck Hutchinson** – The Safety Information GIS (SIG) application presents summary collision information based on more detailed records in the Highway Accident System (HAS). User’s can select one or more pre-defined highway segments from a map and obtain summary collision statistics for the total selected length of highway. http://maps.sig.th.gov.bc.ca/

4. **Photolog presented by John Coombs** – With this web application you can zoom into a map, point on a location and start seeing a ‘video’ that will drive you down the road. There are literally millions of images that make up these movies. http://maps.plg.th.gov.bc.ca/

5. **Inter-Ministry Data Sharing presented by Mark Lynch** – The provincial Pine Beetle infestation was highlighted at this station and proved to be quite shocking! The Economic Analysis Section is currently working on cross ministry initiatives that are trying to understand and model the movement and impact of this natural disaster.

6. **SAWS presented by Ted Weick and Patti Sandham** – The Avalanche and Weather Programs, provide current information on avalanche and weather condition throughout the province. Specific data includes; most recent Avalanche Forecast Information; hourly data from automated weather stations located along highway corridors; and thermal mapping data from 6 test segments located in the Skeena and Bulkley Stikine Highway Districts. http://maps.saw.th.gov.bc.ca/
GIS Day (continued)

7. **RIMS presented by Jean Bishop and Jenna Sparks**
   - The Road Inventory Maintenance System (RIMS) is the system used to track and query inventory and network road data. There are three branches to the program: Highway’s by EXOR which is the main program that runs RIMS and is restricted to Operation Technicians and HQ staff; Information Manager which is a web based mapping tool; RIMS Reporting Module which is the web based forms tool.
   
   http://maps.rsi.th.gov.bc.ca

8. **BIP Map presented by Gordon Bonwick and Greg Simmons**
   - Specialized IMF application developed for Border Infrastructure Program for the management of information relating to property acquisition and tracking. This site is restricted to individuals who are involved with the project and therefore access is password protected. http://www.bip-maps.ca/

9. **Mapping Graphics presented by Beverly van Druten-Blais**
   - Base-mapping information from GIS applications such as ArcMAP are imported into Illustrator and transformed into Cartographic quality maps. These files and images are then used to incorporate into different presentations,

   Everyone had the opportunity to walk around and visit the different stations to see how people at MoT are using data, maps and geospatial programs to help make our jobs easier.

Two contests were held and the winners were Bob Buckingham, winner of the GPS unit for the GIS Day Participation contest and Darwin Tyacke, winner of an Aerial Photo book for the Aerial Photo contest – Congratulations!

10. **MOT Shared Map Services presented by Peter Spry** - Web mapping applications display data in a context that's familiar to most people--a map. However, unlike paper maps, web-mapping applications can be displayed at any scale, searched, and customized to retrieve information from a database. MoT ISB offers services to analyze, design and build web-mapping applications. Using landform, watercourse, air photo and other existing geographic data, MoT data is presented in a rich and meaningful context. Come and see all of the different applications that we have running at MoT. http://dev.maps.hwy.th.gov.bc.ca/

   Thanks to everyone who participated making this event a very successful one! Please feel free to contact me with suggestions on how MoT can expand this event into the Regional and/or District offices for next year.
Changing Face of Field Services

Submitted by Shanna Mason, Director, Provincial Field Services

Dan Templeton has returned to his roots in the field as a Construction Supervisor on the Sea to Sky. Apparently you can take Dan out of construction, but can never take the construction out of Dan.

Dan has been replaced by Gary Stewart and started sorting through Dan’s pile of papers on September 12th. He did actually reach desk top by the 14th.

Brian Atkins took off in a whole new direction as the new Operations Manager in the Lower Mainland District and Gord Blackey stepped in to fill his shoes during the transition.

Gord Killian has moved on to a new, old role for him with the Region 1 bridge folks. All the best Gord.

Carmone Allen and Craig McLeod have recently joined the Field Services ranks in auxiliary positions.

Kerry Lesyk, Bob MaFadden and Richard Ninaus all recently secured permanent positions with Field Services.

Allan Schmidt joined Field Services in our new Quality Management Assistant role.

Doug Mackay was recently successful in being awarded an STO4 Assistant Project Supervisor position and will be joining Ron Chadwick’s crew shortly.

John McNee has sailed off into the warm sunset to enjoy retirement in the Okanagan. And, Steve Jagdeo will be joining him in blissful retirement this winter.

And, last but not least … Wayne Fraser kindly stepped up and took on a temporary role wearing the many hats of our Field Services Managers for almost three months this summer. Thanks so much Wayne! Not to be taken total advantage of, Mike Walsh then offered Jason Jackson a temporary assignment to replace Wayne while Al Scharien stepped up into Jason’s shoes.

Of special note, we are sending our positive thoughts to Rhonda, Joe, Len and Donny on speedy recoveries. And, we would like to welcome Glenn Schwemler back to the team.

Marriage on the High(ways) Sea!

Submitted by South Coast Region staff

A number of South Coast Regional staff gather together to watch via Princess Cruises webcam as Hubert Mock, Project Management Technician, exchanged wedding vows with his high school sweetheart, Teresa. Hubert, Teresa and 40 guests were on a Mexican Riviera cruise.

The 60-second “snap-shots” had no sound so Hubert provided a play-by-play of the proceedings using a flip chart, as well as emailing a copy of their vows so that we could read along!

Congratulations Hubert and Teresa and thank you for giving us the privilege of witnessing your special day!
Birch Island and Mad River Ice Jams 2005 – 2006

Submitted by Bill Glen, Bridge Area Manager, Thompson

On December 21, 2005, the residents of Birch Island were again reminded of the events of just under a year ago. A pre-Christmas ice jam approximately 2 km long and extending 500 metres above the Birch Island Bridge, caused extensive flooding resulting in a road closure and damage to at least one residence. Although the damage inflicted was considerably less than the events of early January 2005, this was a poignant reminder of the ever-present power this great river and of Mother Nature in general.

One year ago on January 23rd, the North Thompson Valley from the Mad River Bridge south to McLure was witness to a major ice jam. The event spanned a two-week period and resulted in major flooding in many areas of the valley, causing permanent damage to two bridges, one at Mad River, the other at Birch Island. During this event, at least a dozen residences in the community of Birch Island were extensively flooded, causing a lengthy evacuation and considerable hardship to the residents. In addition to the residential damage, the Birch Island Bridge was temporarily closed, further adding to the hardship. In the same occurrence, two of the provinces inland ferries, Little Fort and McLure, suffered substantial damage and remained out of service until well after the event, causing further costs and inconvenience.

After an event such as this, it is hoped that one would be able to reflect back and perhaps enjoy something positive come out of it. In fact, it is safe to say that is the case. The residents of Birch Island now enjoy the use of a state of the art structure, which replaced the old ice-damaged Howe Truss, built in 1939. This new structure now allows them to conduct their business and personal lives unobstructed; a welcome relief from the previous load restrictions and closures due to repairs to the old bridge.

The traveling public now also enjoys a beautiful new bridge at Mad River, replacing the temporary 130 ft, Acrow, installed when the old structure was permanently damaged. This too was very restrictive as it placed constraints on much of the industrial traffic using the temporary bridge.

The photos are a testament to the skills and hard work of a dedicated ministry staff working closely with consultants and contractors. These two major structures were designed and built in a time span of just over 9.5 months, with minimal inconvenience to the traveling public. An incredible amount of hard work and diligence went into putting these two bridges into service in such a short time! Pretty amazing!

Check out the EAF website for regular updates: http://gwww.th.gov.bc.ca/eaf/home_intra.asp
Steve Jagdeo Retires

Submitted by Keith Callander, Manager, Field Services – Paving

After 35 years of service, Steve Jagdeo has retired from the Ministry of Transportation.

Steve’s distinguished career began in 1971 with Paving Branch, and he has seen almost every corner of the province. Steve has provided quality lab work, inspection and support on the construction and paving of numerous projects throughout B.C.

Steve was one of the first in the Ministry to step into the lead audit role allowing the Ministry to approach project delivery in a new way. Steve worked in the lead audit role on Design Build projects including various projects such as TCH HOV Lanes, South Surrey Interchange, Johnson Mariner and 200th Street Interchange. We will all miss Steve’s smiling face and cheery attitude.

Congratulations Steve! We wish you all the best in your retirement.

Bridge Area Manager Down!

Mike Woodcock, Bridge Area Manager in Penticton, found out the hard way, that he isn’t quite as sure-footed as he may have been in his younger days. While working on a bridge site near Oliver with our Maintenance Contractor, Mike lost his footing on uneven ground and the end result, as you can see from his photo with Ron Domanko, was breaking his ankle in several places.

Mike is not one to sit around and reports from Mike’s family is that he is getting a little “cranky” these days. Mike is expected to be off work until the end of March and we wish him a speedy recovery...for his family’s sake! Looks like that post-retirement career as a ballroom dancer is out of the question Mike! Take care...From your colleagues in the Okanagan-Shuswap District!
Adopt a Highway starts to HEAT up!

Submitted by Bradley Kurucz, Commercial Transport Inspector

The BC Adopt a Highway program is a roadside maintenance and enhancement initiative intended to encourage local stewardship of public highways. The program is aimed at promoting community pride through such activities as mowing, weeding, landscape beautification, and litter pickup. Adopt a Highway provides training, safety vests, signs, garbage bags and pickers, as well as garbage pickup. Participants are recognized for their efforts through the installation of signage provided by the Ministry of Transportation.

Haig Inspection Station/Weigh Scale is located on the Lougheed Highway, 2 km west of the town of Hope in the Fraser Valley. This area of British Columbia is one of the most scenic in the province. Hope is located at the junction of the Fraser and Coquihalla Rivers, is flanked on three sides by mountains, and occupies a small flat area separating the Coastal and Cascade mountain ranges. Employees at Haig have always thought our little stretch of Highway #7 is one of the most beautiful places anyone could hope to have as a place to work. The mountains surrounding the area can be lush green, frozen white with the snow and ice, or draped in clouds and mist depending on the season. The highway runs relatively East to West, providing some awesome sunrises and sunsets. Truly an office with a view!

For years now we’ve talked about how sad it is that such a beautiful place seems to accumulate more than its share of roadside garbage. Truck traffic at the weigh scale, tourists using #7 to escape the Lower Mainland, and fishermen accessing one of the most popular salmon fishing areas on the Fraser River are some of the main producers of the litter accumulating on the side of the road. Newspapers, drink cans, junk food wrappers, cigarette packets, and automotive fluid containers are some of the items that are regularly found along the highway. It only takes a small percentage of highway users littering for these items to build up and become an unsightly nuisance.

Employees at Haig have finally decided enough is enough. We want a clean highway. The idea was recently raised that we could join the Adopt a Highway Program to take care of our little stretch of the Lougheed. That’s exactly what we did. Haig employees and many of their family members have adopted a 2 km stretch of Highway #7, one kilometre east and one kilometre west of the Haig Inspection Station. This area has the worst problem with garbage accumulating, and

For years now we’ve talked about how sad it is that such a beautiful place seems to accumulate more than its share of roadside garbage. Truck traffic at the weigh scale, tourists using #7 to escape the Lower Mainland, and fishermen accessing one of the most popular salmon fishing areas on the Fraser River are some of the main producers of the litter accumulating on the side of the road. Newspapers, drink cans, junk food wrappers, cigarette packets, and automotive fluid containers are some of the items that are regularly found along the highway. It only takes a small percentage of highway users littering for these items to build up and become an unsightly nuisance.

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continued from page 18

When Adopt a Highway asked us what name we wanted on our roadside recognition sign we decided to call ourselves the “Haig Employee Action Team”. We figure if you’re going to call yourself something, why not have fun with it. We think it sounds cool, plus H.E.A.T. makes a great acronym.

Many of the members of HEAT participate in other charitable activities such as the United Way Day of Caring. As a group we’re planning on being part of many different charity events. Things are starting to HEAT up!

Field Services Crews Recognized for Hard Work to Enhance the Environment in the Northwest

Submitted by Mike Newton, Manager Field Services

Brad Scott, Bob Neville, and Rick Matthews were recently recognized by DFO for the outstanding work they performed in enhancing the environment in the Nass River Valley and on Hwy 37 at Grelson Creek. Culverts that previously would not allow for fish passage were replaced partly through the environmental enhancement fund and partly through the project budgets. After completion of these projects, it opened up several kilometres of spawning habitat for trout and salmon that had not been accessible. Brad, Bob, and Rick attended a recognition ceremony in Terrace to accept their awards.
“Get TRIM” after the Holidays

The newest acronym floating around the Ministry of Transportation is TRIM, which stands for “Total Records and Information Management”. Business documents, currently stored on the LAN, and business related email messages will be stored in TRIM, which is expected to improve the delivery of services to our stakeholders and to the public.

The project team announced the official start of the TRIM implementation project in the Summer 2005 issue of Roadrunner. Since then, the TRIM Implementation Team has been very busy converting the ministry’s existing systems for managing physical records, CRMS and QRMS, to the new TRIM system. During this phase of the project, the TRIM deployment team consisting of Beth Pitblado, Kim Anderson and Vicki Nygaard successfully delivered TRIM training to over 100 Information Workers responsible for managing business records. Much of the regional training was facilitated on location with the use of a mobile classroom purchased for the project.

On December 14, 2005 the TRIM Implementation Team successfully achieved their production implementation target for converting CRMS data to TRIM. Early reports have indicated that the system has received widespread acceptance and is being readily adopted by the Information Worker community.

Many business units have expressed their desire to move on to the next phase and integrate the electronic document and e-mail management capabilities into their business processes. Some of the business units that have volunteered to become early adopters to date include Kicking Horse Canyon Project, Marine Branch, TPP Finance and Administration, Rocky Mountain District, Cariboo District and Partnerships Department. These business units are, however, not the first to come on board. The Sea to Sky Project Office and Gateway Project Office have been championing TRIM for nearly a year as the preferred system to manage their project electronic and physical records including E-mail, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and AutoCAD files. These groups have been using TRIM for managing electronic documents and all report early successes.

A recent testimonial from the Gateway Project office says: “Today I asked the Engineers how it went (searching for documents in TRIM), if they could find everything, etc. and, not only could they find what they were looking for, they were impressed with the ease of using TRIM”.

The final phase of the project is to deploy TRIM as a desktop productivity tool for electronic information management to nearly 1200 Ministry users. The success of this initiative depends on a joint commitment to scheduling, a managed approach to business integration and a reusable ‘cookie cutter’ approach to delivering implementation and training. The Information Privacy & Records Branch was the first ministry branch to volunteer as a premier production site to assess the proposed implementation approach. The feedback from this group proved to be invaluable towards fine tuning the TRIM deployment approach. The Implementation Team has now retooled and is ready to start deployment.

To get on board with this exciting new program, please contact Beth Pitblado by email or at (250) 356-0315.
What’s New in the TPP Department?

1. Websites

Program Development and Monitoring (PDM)

Program Development and Monitoring launched a new branch intranet website. The PDM Branch specializes in the development and monitoring of the programs and the projects within the Transportation Investment Plan. Their new website will include updated Project Funding Agreements (PFA), Change Requests, as well as a current copy of the Transportation Investment Plan, business cases and information on the Capital Program Board. To view the new PDM website go to: http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwpdmb/Content/Home/Home.asp.

Cost Estimating Working Committee

A working committee has been formed to lead and coordinate project cost estimating in the ministry. The first meeting was held in October 2005, and consists of representatives from each region and HQ. For more information contact Mike Hallas at: mike.hallas@gov.bc.ca.

2. Project Management Annual Meeting – 2005

In June 2005, the Project Management Support Services Branch hosted a general meeting in Vancouver for project management staff throughout the ministry. The two-day meeting focused on “Building Relationships” in project management, and was a huge success. A general meeting for 2006 is tentatively scheduled for May. For more information, contact Dave Gaddes at: David.Gaddes@gov.bc.ca.

3. Project Management Manual Updated

An extensive update to the project management manual was completed in August 2005. The new manual is web based and is available online at: http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwimb/Content/MoTHPMManual/toc.asp. The entire update was completed in only 5 months by conducting a series of workshops with senior project management staff. For more information, contact Dave Gaddes at: David.Gaddes@gov.bc.ca.

4. What’s New in the TPP Department?

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ment of a national transportation strategy – “Looking to the Future - A plan for investing in Canada’s transportation system” was presented at the Council of the Federation meeting in Kelowna in November.

6. Pacific Gateway Branch

In November 2005, the Pacific Gateway Strategy Project team was launched as a new branch under the Transportation Planning and Policy Department in headquarters. A key deliverable under the Ministry service plan, the Pacific Gateway Strategy is a major undertaking to capitalize upon west coast ports, airports, road and rail links to establish a competitive full-service corridor between Asia and North America. To assist the Ministry with the realization of these trade opportunities, a dedicated project team was formed to lead this initiative. This team will focus upon policy reforms, marketing and transportation infrastructure investments required to meet 2020 trade targets identified under the BC Ports Strategy. Lisa Gow, former Director of the Partnerships Department, is heading up the team. Lisa is joined by Dave Bachynski and Erin Annis of the Policy Branch. Team formation and scope definition are currently being confirmed. Please stay tuned for additional updates on project progress and the launch of a project website.

“They are our heroes, we shall not forget them”

Submitted by Pamela McDermid, District CVSE Manager, Fraser Valley

Last September 25th, Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement staff took part at the 28th annual BC Police and Peace Officers’ Memorial March held at the Swangard Stadium in Burnaby. This service was held to commemorate the nine Canadian Peace Officers who died in the line of duty over the last year and to all of those that died before them. CVSE was joined by other peace officers representing corrections, customs, conservation and wildlife and Parks Canada employees, to name a few, as well as police officers representing municipal, provincial and federal forces, as well as law enforcement agencies from the United States.

This annual event is held on the last Sunday of September on National Police and Peace Officers’ Day.
Dan Doyle Leadership Award: Call for Nominations for 2006

Submitted by Patrick Livolsi, Regional Manager, Engineering

The Dan Doyle Leadership award was created last year to recognize the remarkable leadership demonstrated by Dan Doyle during his more than 36 years with the Ministry.

The award is presented annually to an individual, either a current or recent past Ministry of Transportation employee, who best exemplifies the attributes of a great leader. A call for nominations will be distributed in January of each year. A panel consisting of six staff representatives from the administrative, technical and management areas will review the submissions and make a recommendation for the year’s award winner. The Assistant Deputy Minister’s will make the final approval of the selection panel’s recommendation.

The recipient will receive an engraved plaque and a gift certificate for dinner for two. A wall plaque of all the award recipients will be permanently displayed at headquarters. The presentation will be made at the annual Deputy Minister’s Staff Recognition awards ceremony in the winner’s home region with Dan Doyle making the presentation if he is available.

The initial award recipient was Dan Doyle himself as a retirement gift from the Ministry. This was presented on April 14, 2005 at the Deputy Minister Staff Recognition awards in Burnaby.

It is that time of year where we will are seeking nominees for the 2006 Dan Doyle Leadership Award. We are requesting all Ministry staff to submit their nominations to Val Fabick, Senior Project Manager in the South Coast Region. Val will be collecting the nominations and forwarding them to the selection panel for review.

Nominations should be submitted in writing with rationale citing examples specific to the selection criteria. Three supporting nominators must sign each nomination. The selection criteria includes demonstration of the following leadership qualities:

- Long-term commitment to demonstrating and promoting leadership
- Developing, maintaining and improving working relationships
- Values that help support and foster and excellent working environment
- Leadership by example “walks the talk”
- Enthusiastically communicates a vision to the organization
- Excellent service to others such as colleagues, co-workers, staff and the public
- Empowers others, e.g. team building

The due date for submitting nominations is April 15, 2006.
Deer–Vehicle Crash Reductions Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin

Submitted by Engineering Branch, Headquarters

On October 25th, 2005, Leonard Sielecki, the Ministry’s wildlife accident expert, was invited to speak about the Ministry’s wildlife accident reporting and mitigation initiatives to representatives of the US Federal Highway Administration, US State departments of transportation and natural resource agencies and leading non-government organizations. The “Deer-Vehicle Crash Reductions: Setting a Strategic Agenda” meeting was organized by the Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and held in Madison, Wisconsin. The Clearinghouse is the leading US source of information on deer-vehicle accidents.

The deer-vehicle accident problem has been identified as a serious national transportation issue in the US. The international meeting brought together leading researchers, transportation and ecology professionals, American Automobile Association (AAA) officials and insurance company representatives to develop a strategic agenda to guide future US Federal and State activities and policies related to deer-vehicle accident reduction.

The meeting was sponsored by the US Federal Highway Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Western Transportation Institute, the Defenders of Wildlife, AAA-Wisconsin, AAA-Minnesota/Iowa, the Sand County Foundation, and the US National Center for Transportation and Environment. The meeting was attended by over seventy representatives from the US Federal Government, twenty-five US States and three countries.

Among US Federal and State transportation and wildlife officials, BCMoT is recognized as one of the world’s pioneers and leaders in wildlife accident reporting and mitigation. The Ministry is well respected for its willingness to share knowledge and expertise with other transportation agencies encountering problems with wildlife.

Gilligan’s Team Heads to the Charlottes

Submitted by Don Ramsay, District Manager Transportation, Skeena

The Terrace design and survey team recently spent a week on the Queen Charlottes working on surveys in preparation for future paving and intersection improvements, delineating pit boundaries, check and flagging a clear zone on Beitush Road in Tlell and dealing with some troublesome drainage issues. They met with all types of weather, from rain and gale force winds to snow and even some sunshine. Always happy to see visitors to her islands, Area Manager Stephanie Gillis says it was great having them on the Charlottes dealing with all these issues. Although Denise caught a cold, she was a trooper and kept up with the guys throughout, not to mention keeping them in line.
**Kudos to Provincial Field Services**

Submitted by Shanna Mason, Director, Provincial Field Services

Here comments received from our clients and YEPs in 2005. They are a reflection of the efforts of all of those individuals both within Field Services and within the larger Ministry. Our success is your success, so we thought we would share them with you all.

From our internal clients:

**From:**
Blixrud, Rick G Tran:EX

**To:**
Kevin Richter, Dave Duncan, Don Ramsay, Steve Uyesugi, David Sarsiat, Grant Lachmuth, Danny Morris, and Joe Peterson

**Subject:**
Jensen/Jutland Intersection Improvement

Just a note of appreciation to Tony Bennett, Bill Shovar, Tom Murphy, Norm Schien, Dave Sarsiat, our field services and regional design experts, among others, who worked to deliver such an excellent project at the Jensen/Jutland Intersection.

I had the opportunity to drive and review the project, first hand, today and I am impressed with the results. This is more than dirt and asphalt: this is an major improvement which will increase the safety and comfort of all the residents using the access.

On behalf of the Fort George District Team, I would like to thank Kevin and the rest of the Regional Management Team for their support of this project. We appreciate your recognition that the completion of this project has a special value and meaning within our group.

Rick Blixrud, on Behalf of the Fort George District

... 

From our external clients:

**From:**
Derrick and Lois Harvey

**To:**
Matt Choquette

**Subject:**
Kye Bay Road

Hello Matt:

You might remember our conversation of a few months back...re: any and all disruptions to Kye Bay residents while the hill was being rehabilitated.

I just want to pass on to you, that my wife and I and the guests and residents of the resort here are very happy with the way in which this project was accomplished. Yes, there were days, when we had to wait an hour or two and for a while we had 4 to 6 hour closures. But at all times, we realized that the sooner the team could finish, the sooner we could get back to normal.

Now that it is finished...I suppose the only word is congratulations to you and your contractor for doing the work efficiently, quietly and with as much cooperation shown to us as was possible.

I understand it was completed ahead of schedule, I am sure due to the weather and the long hours worked. Thanks for this and good luck on your other projects.

Cheers,

Derrick and Lois Harvey
Resident Managers
Kye Bay Resort

... 

From our Youth Employment Program participant, Raymond Chan

**From:**
Youth Employment Program participant, Raymond Chan

**To:**
Ron Chadwick, Gary Stewart, and David Solberg

**Subject:**
Kye Bay Road

Hello Matt:

My six months of work experience for the MoT has been valuable. It has been my pleasure to work with a group of experienced staff, and with the practical experience I gained here I believe it will be useful for years to come.

A special thanks to Dave who offered lots of help from the moment...
I looked for places to settle down all the way until I left this job. He was always diplomatic in solving problems and was able to inject humor and share jokes during long hours or work just to make everyone on site a little easier. Despite their busy schedules, Ron and Gary would give supervisions wherever possible. Gary would take all my questions with patience and give every detail of the events taking place on site. And thanks to Ron for taking us to lunch at one of the best restaurants in the Okanagan, and for the informative and interesting ride through the past MoT projects on my final day of work.

I really cannot wait to see the end product by the summer next year. I am sure this is one of the best constructed and safest sections in the entire TCH. THANK YOU ALL!

Raymond Chan
Kikomun Bridge

Submitted by Gord Chudleigh,
District Operations Manager,
Cranbrook

While the new Kikomun Bridge was being constructed, a tug and barge ferry service was provided on Kootenay Lake. This is the last day of the ferry operation. You can see the lake is ice covered and although the barge only carried cars for 10-12 hours a day it had to keep moving 24 hours a day or it would freeze into the lake in about an hour.

NR Fishing Derby 2005

Submitted by Ken Aura, Sr. Project Manager,
Prince George

On Sept 16-18 the Northern Region held their second annual regional fishing derby. This year’s event was held at the Tachick Lake Resort, just south of Vanderhoof with 27 eager anglers participating. The weekend was blessed with beautiful fall weather which made for a couple of great days on the lake chasing the big one and some relaxing evenings watching the sun set while sitting around the camp fire trading stories about the ones that got away.

When all the weighing was done, Gerry Nelson, Area Manager from Smithers, took the prize for most fish caught. Jennifer Aura was presented with a trophy for landing the largest fish, a beautiful 3.5 pound rainbow. By all accounts it was a great opportunity to get away for the weekend and spend some casual time with colleagues. Many thanks go out to the organizers (you know who you are) for putting the event together.
United States Transportation Research Board (TRB) Invitation

Submitted by Engineering Branch, Headquarters

In September, 2005, Len Sielecki, the Ministry’s Environmental Issues Analyst, was invited by the United States Transportation Research Board (TRB) to be a member of its expert panel overseeing a new National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) study on animal collisions. The NCHRP study, Synthesis Study 37-12, Animal-Vehicle Collision Data Collection, was initiated because animal-related motor vehicle collisions, primarily involving wildlife, are becoming an increasingly serious issue in the United States. Each year, they cause over 200 human fatalities, over 29,000 human injuries, and over $1US billion in property damage. As a division of the United States National Research Council, the TRB serves as an independent adviser to the United States Federal Government on transportation-related matters. Its expert panel includes professionals and academics selected from US State Departments of Transportation, the US Federal Highway Administration and leading US universities.

Len says the invitation from the TRB is an honour and recognition of the Ministry as a pioneer and leader in wildlife accident reporting. The Ministry’s Wildlife Accident Reporting System (WARS) was conceived by Mike Kent, the Ministry’s Chief Environmental Officer, almost 30 years ago. The WARS system has been recognized as a unique program among transportation agencies globally and as a valuable model for others wanting to monitor wildlife accidents. Len attributes the success of the WARS system directly to Mike Kent’s foresight, and the ongoing, collective efforts of the Ministry’s district and headquarters staff and its maintenance contractors.

Hooray Renee MBA

Renee Mounteney – Manager Financial Services – completed her MBA just before Christmas. There was cake for all to celebrate her accomplishment. Way to go Renee!
Highways Staff Win Their Due From Federal Agency

You gotta love it when a plan comes together! Just like the fish they’re trying to protect, project staff in Northern Region have found it a lot easier to go with the flow rather than struggling against the current. One of several locations receiving accolades from DFO where fish habitat was enhanced as part of a highways project include this one at Agnes Creek on Moresby Island.

The Alliford Bay Road crossing of Agnes Creek had been identified by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a top priority for a culvert fish passage improvement by the Ministry of Transportation. Using funds secured from the ministry’s Environmental Enhancement Fund, we committed to replacing a series of problem culverts on the creek with a new, concrete box culvert and fishway.

Existing fish stocks were first salvaged before construction began in late March. Construction took just over two weeks to complete. The existing structures, which included four culverts and a partially functioning fish ladder, were removed and replaced with a pre-cast concrete box culvert with baffles.

A lock-block transition tank and pool were constructed on the downstream end of the culvert to allow fish passage at high and low water flows. In addition, large rip-rap was placed downstream of the lock-block pool so as to protect a portion of the downstream channel of Agnes Creek from tide related effects.

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With a nest of DFO Industry Awards grouped on the boardroom table, our winners include (from left to right): Rob Blackburn, Rick Wiese, Stephanie Gillis, George Lomas, Randy Penner, Steve Uyesugi, Rick Matthews, Al McKean, Brad Scott, Daryl Nolan, Tony Bennett, Geoff Phillips, and Bob Neville. Missing: Nini Long. Photo courtesy of the Terrace Standard newspaper.
The end result? A more efficient structure, happier and healthier fish stocks, and a clear conscience in knowing that we’ve done the right thing!

Three of the four inefficient culverts, and an un-inviting fish passageway are seen here.

Members of the North Coast Regional Transportation Advisory Committee admire the recently completed works during their tour of the Charlottes in June.

South Coast Region Golf Tourney

Submitted by Lorna Leslie, Special Events Coordinator, Lower Mainland District

The 19th Annual South Coast Regional Golf Tournament was once again a roaring success with 116 golfers braving the early morning mist for a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start at the beautiful Swan-e-set Bay golf resort in Pitt Meadows. For the first time it was a “Texas scramble” format won by the team of Rob Bitte, Grant Smith, Jessie Bains and Bill Hannay with a “6 under 66”.

Focus Corporation set up a putting contest in honour and memory of Ross Coulter and raised $530.00 with proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. A raffle for the golf package at Swan-e-set raised another $300 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

There were wonderful prizes for everyone which would not have been possible without the support of our many friends and ex-colleagues in the private consulting world.

Looking forward to the big 20th next year!

Krista Keiser – One of the event organizers.

Rob Bitte, Lyn Marshall, Susan Keldsen, Jessie Bains, Jeff Moore, Lorna Leslie, Bill Hannay, and Grant Smith.
Ministry Provincial Bridge Conference

Submitted by Kevin Baskin and Bill Becker

A three day Ministry provincial bridge conference was held on November 15, 16, and 17, 2005 in Victoria attended by approximately 70 MoT staff. Attendees included District Area Managers Bridges, Bridge Engineers and technicians from the Regional Bridge Sections, Bridge EITs, Bridge project supervisors, Headquarters bridge staff as well as a few other interested representatives from Districts, Regions and Headquarters.

The objective of the conference was to provide a forum for training, networking, sharing of information, and identifying and prioritizing issues/direc-tions.

Attendees were split into the following three broad groups and there was a combination of sessions involving both individual groups and combined groups:

- **Inspection Group** (Bridge Area Managers, Rehabilitation Engineers and Inspection Technicians)
- **Design Group** (Design, Consultant Liaison and Design Standards)
- **Construction Group** (Project Supervisors and Construction Standards)

**Inspection Group Sessions**

The inspection group sessions were organized by Gary Farnden and Allan Galambos with input and help from Ivana Mazuch, Matt Doyle, Brian Barker, Rod Mochizuki, Danny Keeler, and Brent Scott.

The first day of the conference was for the Inspection Group only. The group split into 4 sub groups and traveled out from Victoria on Hwy 14 to Sooke where they rotated through inspections of 4 bridges. Bridge types inspected included a steel girder, a timber trestle, and 2 concrete structures, each with its own unique issues. Each person did their own bridge inspection including a rating of bridge component conditions. This was followed by a sub group discussion about how everyone rated the condition with a view of enhancing consistency of inspections. Everyone, particularly newer staff, appreciated the chance to learn from each other regarding issues pertaining to bridge inspection. Potential improvements to inspection guidelines were identified and all inspectors were able to compare their own results to that of the whole group. The weather stayed fairly good and everyone en-

continued on page 32
Provincial Bridge Conference (continued)

Joyed the day with no incidents. Thank you to Brent Scott for his background work in selecting appropriate bridge sites and to Markus Koloska and Trish Mazuch for the background work related to safety and the preparation of the safety toolbox talk.

During the Inspection Group breakout sessions in subsequent days, the following issues were discussed:

- Policy regarding how often structures are inspected
- Auditing maintenance contractors
- BIRDE – Bridge Inspection Remote Data Entry
- The Potential of Bridge Inventory Remote data Entry
- New and future directions for the Bridge Information Management System.
- Bridge Area Manager Workload Issues

Don Ramsay, District Manager Transportation, Skeena facilitated the session regarding Bridge Area Manager workload issues which explored the factors helping and inhibiting Area Manager Bridges from completing core functions - notably bridge condition inspections. It was found some issues were common and others such as geography, number and size of structures were unique to some areas. Don Ramsay has prepared a report for this session with recommendations, and made the issues known to other District Managers Transportation. Follow-up meetings are occurring with Regional Management teams to create an awareness of the issues and to discuss ways of addressing these issues. Actions are already being implemented in some areas.

**Design and Construction Group Sessions**

The design and construction groups had breakout sessions that addressed the following topics:

- Bridge design and construction standards (Led by Ron Mathieson)
- Quality Management issues related to bridge construction (Led by Ron Mathieson)
- Shear design for concrete girders (Professor Adebar – UBC)
- University of BC research related to use of shear stud pockets in precast concrete deck slabs (Professor Elwood – UBC)
- Pile design and installation issues (Led by Ron Mathieson, Sarah Gaib, Don Gillespie)

**Combined Group Sessions**

The combined sessions that included all three groups together explored the following topics:

- Bridge organization structures in the regions and at Headquarters (Kevin Baskin, Allan Galambos, Laurie Christiansen, Ed Cienciala, Rob Kaleka)
- Grading and preservative treatment of timber (Arranged by Ian Sturrock)
- Safety related to cranes (Arranged by Markus Koloska)
- Consultant contracts for construction safety services (Markus Koloska)
- Bridge inspection after a seismic event (Martin Menzel, Sharlie Huffman)
- Construction claims process (Rodney Chapman)
- Bridge railing issues (Kevin Baskin)
- Design Build of Low Volume Road Bridges using the Maintenance Contractors

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Overall the feedback from attendees has been that the conference was well organized with well prepared presentations. It was tremendously well received. Items identified for follow up action included the following:

- Pile design and installation standards
- Specifications for concrete
- Geotechnical design on low volume road bridges
- Updates to the Manual of Bridge Standards and Procedures
- Process for inspection of bridges after a seismic event
- Clarification of railing and barrier standards

Conference presentations can be found at P:\HQ\ENG\bridge\Provincial Bridge Annual Conf 2005-11-16\Provincial Bridge Meeting Presentations.

Many thanks to all who contributed to making the conference such a success!
Percy A. Thambirajah: Retirement After 32 Years of Service

Submitted by Kevin Baskin, Chief Bridge Engineer


Since 1997, Percy has been the Senior Bridge Hydraulics Engineer responsible for providing leadership, technical direction and expertise as the Ministry's senior technical expert for hydrologic and hydraulic engineering. In this role, Percy traveled to all corners of the province working on a wide range of design and construction projects involving bridge hydraulics, highway drainage, flood assessments, coastal engineering, river engineering, erosion control and more. He provided his expert advice on projects ranging from small drainage concerns up to large design/build and P3 projects such as the Sea to Sky Project. As a result of his travels, Percy was well known throughout the province to people within the Ministry, consultants and people from other agencies and he earned a reputation as a competent, conscientious and dedicated professional engineer.

Percy started off his career in engineering by earning a Diploma in Civil Engineering in 1964 from the Government Technical College in Malaysia after which he worked as a Technician with the Public Works Department in Malaysia from 1964 to 1969. He then moved to Scotland to further his education and received a B.Sc. (Hons) in Civil Engineering from the University of Strathclyde in 1971. After receiving a research assistantship, he immigrated to Canada as a permanent resident and completed an M.A.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering specializing in hydrology and other water related engineering from the University of British Columbia in 1973.

Percy joined the Highway Design Branch of the Department of Highways in Victoria in 1973 as a Highway Design Engineer. He worked in this role until 1980 and was involved in the design of such projects as the Trans Canada Highway from Spences Bridge to Cache Creek, Yellowhead Highway No. 16 from Kitwanga to Meziadin, Barkerville Highway No. 26 including the soil/steel SPCSP BCR Overpass No. 2330, Highway No. 3 from Nicolum Creek to Manning Park, soil/steel SPCSP Arch No. 2676 at Seymour Avenue, Victoria, several portions of the Coquihalla Highway and more.

In 1980, Percy joined the Bridge Engineering Branch in Victoria where he spent the last 25 years of his career. He worked as a Bridge Design Engineer from 1980 to 1989, as the Bridge Design Standards/Assistant Consultant Liaison Engineer from 1989 to 1992 and as the Bridge Construction Standards Engineer from 1992 to 1996 prior to becoming the Senior Bridge Hydraulics Engineer in 1997. He has made a significant contribution to the Ministry's bridge infrastructure through his involvement in innumerable bridge projects and through his involvement with the bridge and hydraulics standards.

We will miss Percy's hard work, dedication and organized approach to his work. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement and wish all the best to his wife Susie and their three daughters – Natasha, Anita and Amanda.
Sea to Sky Stroke
Gold Prior to 2010


It was the second award in the month for the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project, which was honoured in early November by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the W.H. Curtis Award for outstanding technical achievement for the Test Section Construction.

South Coast Region
Christmas Lunch

Submitted by Patricia Wong, Regional Operations Technician

A mouth-watering, catered Christmas lunch was held at the South Coast regional office on December 15, 2005 and was attended by over 60 people. Menu items included tomato bocconcini, wild maple glazed salmon and shaved baron of beef. To share in the festivities next year, be sure to get your tickets early!

Top photo, left to right: Bruce Hayden, Mike Dowdle, Ken Lukawesky, Dave Mintak, Jay Porter, and Matt Choquette

Bottom photo, left to right: Peter Fu, Pat Cruickshank, Ken Mah, Lyn Marshall, Amy Choh
CVSE/MoT Golf Tourney

Submitted by Brad Emslie, Commercial Transport Inspector, Quesnel Weigh Scale

On September 24th, the first annual CVSE/MoT fun golf tourney was held in Quesnel. We had 19 players from the CVSE, MoT and HMC maintenance staff. There were lots of door prizes, draws and a trophy for first place. The first place team consisted of Denise Bollinger (MoT), Gord Pickles (MoT), Brad Emslie (CVSE) and Linda Hanrahan (spouse). The tournament was originally intended for the Quesnel Weigh Scale staff but after the merger to the Ministry of Transportation I thought this would be a great social event for the Ministry of Transportation too.

Next years event will be held some time in May or June, an e-mail will be sent out to all MoT staff when the date has been confirmed. We hope to have more Ministry of Transportation staff from all regions participate.
Dan Doyle and Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project Honoured

Submitted by David Chang, Director, Project Management Services, Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project

On November 3, 2005 our former Deputy Minister Dan Doyle received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Greater Vancouver Section. The award recognized Dan's sustained outstanding lifetime contribution to the transportation profession. Tom Tasaka (left) introduced Dan Doyle. Steve Brown, an ITE executive member, presented the award.

On the same evening, the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project received the ITE W.H. Curtis Award for Outstanding Technical Achievement for the Test Section Construction which was constructed on the “Modified Alliance Approach” and achieved an overall construction saving of about 15%. The award was presented to the Ministry of Transportation in association with Emil Anderson Construction, Associated Engineering, CH2M Hill, Golder Associates and SNC Lavalin. The Test Section also won the CEBC Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Engineering Excellence in March 2005.

Winter photo by Danny Keeler: Euchiniko River Bridge located 110 km northwest of Quesnel and north of Nazko near Gilles Crossing.
Who is this Masked Man Anyway?

Remember this photo from the fall 2005 issue of the Road Runner? Who did you think this masked man is?

Brad Kurucz of the Haig Scale took the descriptive approach. “I’m not sure who the masked man is, but he looks resplendent in his orange and blue pants with matching helmet and shiny yellow chainsaw. Note the use of goggles and face shield, as well as work gloves and bar guard on the saw. The very picture of safety. Excellent!”

Nick Antifaeff of Williams Lake guessed “Roy Johnson from the days when he worked for the Geotechnical and Materials Branch in Nelson. My guess is the photo is taken around 1981 or 1982.”

Other guesses included: Dave Schleppe, Dave Byng, “Tool Time Tim,” and 9 guesses from the Rocky Mountain District for Gordon Botha.

Apparently this masked man either doesn’t recognize himself or has chosen to remain quiet on the topic.

This safety-equipped masked man is none other than Phil Best, Senior District Development Technician of the West Kootenay District in Nelson...at least that’s what my source tells me.

– The Editor

News from Rocky Mountain District

Submitted by Kareen Peters, Area Manager

Rod Hopper, Senior Development Technician is retiring on January 27th after many years of working in the public service. Congratulations Rod!

Leslie Elder, formerly from Fort St. John, is replacing Rod. She started work in the Rocky Mountain District on January 3rd.

Jack Bennetto has sent an elk to elk heaven, and his truck to truck heaven! (i.e. He hit an elk and this time his truck is a write off, unlike last year when he hit a deer, and the deer went to deer heaven but they fixed his truck). We’re very glad you’re okay Jack!
South Coast Region’s Long Service Award Recipients

Submitted by Lyn Marshall, Regional Clerk

On October 5, 2005, the South Coast Region’s RMT honoured the regional office’s long service award recipients: Brian Steadman (35 years), Nash Jamal, Jackie Chambers, and Janice Stevens (all 25 years). Greg Matisz and Matt Choquette (both 25 years), also received recognition for their years of service in the public service but were unavailable for photos.

Winter photo by David Mintak: Taken while leaving a bridge project in Manning Park - Hwy.3, heading westbound, about 40 km east of Hope.
Helping First Nations and the Restoration of the Environment

Assisting the recovery of disturbed areas as a result of land disturbances including road construction is a small price to pay in return for the many benefits restoration of the environment provides to us. That’s why the Properties and Business Management Branch is only too happy to partner with the University of Victoria’s Faculty of Environmental Studies and contribute funds to the Restoration of Natural Systems Program.

Under the program, students work to protect natural areas, restore ecological systems, and learn about the responsibility of stewardship over lands and resources.

As part of the Ministry’s contribution, three First Nation students will receive full-tuition scholarships or bursaries to assist with their studies in the Restoration of Natural Systems Program. Recipients of the scholarships this year are two students from the Neskonlith First Nation near Chase, and one student from the Songhees First Nation near Esquimalt in Victoria.

Some of the student’s work will include projects involving site restoration plans for important ecosystems such as fish habitat and wetlands disturbed by land use activities and projects through First Nations lands.

A small amount of the overall funds will also be used to establish two databases: one for the Program student’s major projects, so that academics and community members can access the subject matters, and the second database to be used by students and graduates as part of the Program’s Student Library to help with their work or to be used by potential clients who wish to hire graduates.

The Ministry is proud to be a sponsor of this initiative to assist First Nations with accessing educational opportunities at the University level and will be monitoring the work of the students as they achieve their certification and diplomas under this very valuable and worthwhile program.

For more information about the Ministry’s partnership with the University of Victoria, contact Nick May, Senior Manager, Properties and Business Management Branch, at (250) 356-8780.

New Prospects for the Boston Bar First Nation

The name of the Boston Bar First Nation came about from the scores of Americans (referred to as “Boston men” by the First Nations) that washed for gold in the bar of the Fraser River. Since that gold rush period, the prospects for development of this small community of 230 Band members have been limited – that is until now.

A road agreement signed with the Boston Bar First Nation for Green Ranch Road is providing new benefits for the Band. While you might think it was cash compensation for the road that is making Chief O’Donaghey happy, it is actually not cash but all of the safety and community improvements instead that are providing a new outlook for the First Nation.

As part of the compensation package, the community is thrilled with the arrangement by the Ministry to pave their subdivision roads, provide new safety signs for their daycare facility, and help with the development of their campsite by providing surplus grindings and millings for the Band’s campsite roads as a safety and dust control measure.

These types of benefits are now routinely being built into road compensation packages for First Nations. The reason is that in the wake of the recent Osoyoos Court Decision, the Department of Indian Affairs now
requires the Ministry to clearly demonstrate how any road compensation agreement will have direct benefits other than just cash for the First Nations.

Of course, the Ministry is happy to oblige, especially when an agreement results in safety and road improvement opportunities for First Nations like Boston Bar, and another difficult-to-get Section 35 road transaction on the books for the Ministry of Transportation.

In the next edition of the Road Runner, look for details on a new deal with the Hupacasath First Nation at Port Alberni that involves solar powered pedestrian safety lights as the compensation to resolve an outstanding road deal.

For more information about the Boston Bar First Nation – Green Ranch Road Agreement, call Nick May at the Properties and Business Management Branch at (250) 356-8780.

**Updated First Nation Consultation Guidelines**

Coming soon to an office near you are the Ministry’s newly updated 2005/2006 First Nation Consultation Guidelines. These guidelines replace the June 2003 version, and incorporate updated requirements as set by the Supreme Court following the Haida and Taku Decisions of 2002.

Fortunately, the new requirements are not a huge departure from the old guidelines, because the Ministry was already on the right track by focusing on the establishment and maintenance of good relationships with First Nations. That focus is also in keeping with Premier Gordon Campbell’s 2004 announcement that the Province is committed to reconciliation with First Nations and to building working relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

The biggest change and challenge in the new guidelines is that the Courts have lowered the threshold to initiate consultation with First Nations, so that means Ministry staff will need to be much more aware about when consultation is required. The good news is that many relationships have already been established with First Nations, and in several cases, the correct process is already in place to do meaningful consultation.

Garth Stewart, Provincial Coordinator, First Nations Policy and Research, is looking forward to being back on the road this year to visit each District and Region and provide you with new tools and information to ensure your consultation process with First Nations is timely and effective.

For more information on the consultation guidelines, contact Garth Stewart, at the Properties and Business Management Branch, at (250) 356-6306.

**CVSE Long Service Awards**

*Here is a picture of Suzanne Watson, Manager, CVSE in Victoria, and her husband Barry at the Long Service Awards reception.*
Victoria Hosts the 50th Annual CTAA Conference

Submitted by Michael F. Oliver, Chief Geotechnical, Materials and Pavement Engineer

The 50th Canadian Technical Asphalt Association (CTAA) conference, took place November 7th, 8th and 9th, 2005 in Victoria, BC. The attendees were treated to the beautiful surroundings of Victoria, the mild coastal weather and many excellent papers on asphalt and paving technology.

The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation actively participated during one year of conference preparation. Michael Oliver, P.Eng. is the Ministry representative and long-term CTAA member and served on the organizing committee. CTAA and British Columbia Ministry of Transportation has a long history. Past presidents of the Association included Merv Clark and John Kerr, past engineers with the Ministry.

The association conference was attended by Road Builders, oil companies, construction and equipment manufacturers, consultants, university academia, and government agencies. There were more than 400 attendees mainly from Canada but many other countries were represented. All the papers were concerned with better pavement practices involving better asphalts, paving practices, paving equipment, testing practices, all to the benefit of road agencies.

We are very happy to report that Field Services supported the conference and many thanks go out to Shanna Mason for the support. A large number of MoT paving personnel were in attendance and took advantage of learning new methods in the road paving operations. Ministry attendees included: Wayne Fraser, Vince Trozzo, Tim Mezzaros, Keith Callander, Bob Penner, Mike Newton, Bill Eisbrenner, Jason Jackson, Ugo Porco, Rob Ostrikoff, Doug Kidd, Brian Twiname, Bob Petho, Pat Taylor, Mike McLaren, Wayne McCarvill, Ken Cullen, John Mckenzie and John Snyder.

From 40 submitted papers, 26 were selected for presentation. Two of these were joint papers from the Ministry and consultants.

One paper, “Micro-Surfacing Projects conducted by the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation 1998 to 2004” was presented by Ludvik Mazuch, B.Sc., Tinnecha Consulting.

The other paper was titled “A full scale demonstration project evaluate asphalt rubber pavement, Highway 6, British Columbia” by Arthur Johnston, C.E.T. and Burt Pulles, P.Eng, EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, and Michael F. Oliver, P.Eng., Chief Geotechnical, Materials and Pavement Engineer.

Winter in Victoria

Winter photo by Mandy Lo: The Legislative Buildings in Victoria.
Career Tips

Brought to you by the Road to Opportunity Team of the Employee Advisory Forum (Holly Adems, Greg Bruce, Jackie Chambers, Amy Choh, Ramona Holota, and Bob Petho)

One of our goals is to provide learning tools to help you assess your career path and let you know what training is available within the Ministry. In every Roadrunner issue, we will be putting together a list of career tips that may be helpful in providing an enriched working environment.

1. The CSI Website: This is our own Road to Opportunity Team website that we have put together for you with links to career resources within the Ministry. Please take a look and you will find interesting information such as sample behavioral based competency interview questions, career-pathing tools, employee profiles, and sample interview questions.

http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/eaf/csi/csi.asp

2. Training & Development Offered by the BC Public Service Agency: The BCPSA routinely offers free training courses that you can register with your Manager's approval. These can be found on:

http://www.bcpublicservice.ca/courses/

The following is a list of courses that are coming up in January to March 2006:

- Effective Problem Solving & Conflict Resolution with Customers/Clients
- Listening, Hearing, and Responding
- Preparing for Today's Behavioural Event Interview
- Project Management “JumpStart”

Foiled Again!

After returning from a month-long European vacation, Dan Bader – Regional Financial Analyst found his workstation to be very well preserved. Dan spent time in London and in Greece. The photo below was taken in Greece.
The staff at the Smithers office was surprised to find wrapped presents, and a draw box, with instructions in their conference room, at the start of the day on Dec 1st. We were instructed to draw a name from a box, and that person was to choose one gift to open.

On each name tag was a poem about the person. Starting at the 5th verse of the tune to the 12 days of Christmas... sing along now...

On the 15th day of Christmas,  
It’s Steve’s turn to choose one,  
It’s a lot of fun...  
So waltz to the gifts,  
don’t dance the BOOGIE,  
no ands, buts or ifs,  
it’s for the house of UYESUGI.

The 2nd annual teen toy drive was again successful, the Smithers’ Christmas hamper received over $150 worth of gifts for teens from many of the office staff.

In December, Rob Blackburn and Steve Uyesugi were awarded with recognition for contribution to the conservation and development of fish habitat by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Rob’s “get it done” attitude has come through on projects such as Thompson Creek Pipe Arch, Ogilvie Cr Multiplate upgrades, Pope Bridge replacement, Surprise Creek Dyke enhancements, and McKinnon Cr Culvert repairs. His pro-active approach ensures preservation of our infrastructure and environmental improvements. Between Rob Kaleka and Rob Blackburn, identification and reparation of infrastructure and environmental issues are undertaken. Well done Rob, congratulations from your co-workers!

Finally, a note for the procrastinator in all of us...If it wasn’t for the last minute, nothing would get done.
This year’s EIT Orientation lead us to Terrace and having spent 13 years of my life growing up in Smithers, I relished the idea of heading back to my Northern roots for a visit! After a safe arrival in Terrace, we met at the Skeena District office to kick off the 2005 EIT Orientation. A roundtable discussion acted as a quick get to know you session for the new EITs and we then moved into our EIT working group presentations. At last year’s orientation, we were tasked with 3 objectives:

1. Develop an EIT Website,
2. Develop an EIT Check In/Check Out Form (akin to the EPDP)
3. Develop an Orientation Booklet for new EITs. Susan Randle, Ryan Oakley and I gave presentations on these topics.

(Make sure to check out our website at http://gwwth.gov.bc.ca/EIT/home.asp)

After the presentations, we broke out into new and old EITs. The new EITs were whisked away with Lori Sutton and Leslie Manning to get an introduction to the Ministry and have a Q & A session on what to expect in the EIT program. The veterans went with Dirk for a “fireside chat”, though as has been the case for the past few years, there was still no fire. Nonetheless, we settled for a nice Q & A session of our own.

The group later re-assembled to listen to Saqib Khan share his experiences from his last year spent working with Associated Engineering by way of the secondment program. We learned that the secondment program provided a great opportunity to gain pure design experience that is not as readily available within the Ministry. It was an experience that Saqib recommended wholeheartedly to others!

Garth Stewart was the last presenter of Day 1 – providing an educational synopsis of the First Nations consultation process and more specifically how an agreement was ultimately reached on the Nisga’a Treaty.

Day 2 was jammed packed, starting with Don Ramsay providing an overview of some issues encountered during the construction of the Nisga’a highway extension from Greenwood to Kincolith. Following the presentation, we jumped into 4 mini vans and were off to the races, taking a tour of the ~200 km Nisga’a highway. Not a perfect start, as we lost one of the four vans prior to leaving town (apparently Tim Horton’s took priority!), but fortunately we managed to re-assemble along route.

We made a number of stops along route to Kincolith, taking in the breathtaking, untouched scenery of the Nass Valley and looking in awe at the engineering feat linking Greenwood and Kincolith. George Lomas offered a wealth of project history at each of our stops. At the end of the road, we stopped to enjoy lunch (packed with care by the folks in the Skeena District office) in the small, oceanside village of Kincolith.

On the return trip, we stopped in New Aiyansh at the Nisga’a Legislature Building, where we were greeted by Kevin McKay who completed our trip to the Nass Valley by offering a sense of the Nisga’a Nation and the people whom it encompasses, along with challenges that were encountered while developing the Nisga’a Treaty.
The morning of Day 3 started with Sharlie Huffman and her informative presentation on APEGBC and the necessary experience required to transition from an EIT to a P.Eng. This presentation was such a hot topic for us EITs that it was decided to make it a yearly point of discussion at the Orientation session, to ensure everyone is on the right track to reaching their P.Eng status.

Dave Duncan was the final speaker of this year’s Orientation and was tasked with the challenge of keeping a tired group of EITs conscious and offering words of wisdom on “Planning Your Career”. To stimulate the young crowd, Dave prepared a pop quiz on “How Well Do you know the Ministry?” Once the EITs caught a glimpse of the prize up for grabs, competitive personalities started emerging all around! Questions varied from naming the Districts, to naming types of bridges decks, to identifying Ministry folks by their photos (personally, I never knew Wayne Gretsky worked at MoT – tricky Dave, very tricky). The good news is all EITs passed this pop quiz with flying colors – so fear not, the future of the Ministry is in good hands!

With a now very enthusiastic crowd, Dave forged ahead with an informative presentation on career progression and different opportunities available within the Ministry. We all left this presentation with lots of food for thought about how to be most strategic in laying a solid foundation to aide in the progression of our careers.

Overall, this was definitely another successful Orientation. It is certainly an event that EITs look forward to and it provides a great opportunity to meet MoT staff from all over the Province. Wherever it takes us next year, I look forward to another EIT adventure!

In closing, I would like to extend a big thanks to the following people:

- Don Ramsay and his staff at the Skeena District office for being brilliant hosts
- George Lomas for providing a first-class tour of the Nisga’a Highway
- Lori Sutton & Dirk Nyland for putting together another successful Orientation!

Community Hall in Kincolith

All the EITs along with George, Don, Lori and Dirk outside the Nisga’a Legislative Building.

Mandy Lo, Saqib, Steve Loptson and Jatinder Hayer enjoying lunch on the beach.

Anthony, Charles Wojcik & Mandy.