Test of Humanity – A Race to Build Lives
Submitted by Mike Boissonneault, Avalanche and Weather Programs Manager

Reaching out to help a person in need can produce surprising results.

First of all, it is not uncommon to hesitate, for reasons that we are busy or don’t have any money to help, especially when there is a near constant barrage of people asking, usually at the most inopportune times. It is one thing to simply give up some pocket change, when asked to contribute to a good cause. It is quite another to take on an initiative to organize a fund-raising event…from scratch.

This is what Weather Network Program Manager/Avalanche Technician Nic Seaton and his wife Sheilagh have done. After they spent some time in Ethiopia, and had the opportunity to visit and work with people in villages, they were both so impressed with how little the people had and yet people were so happy, simply just to be alive.

Both Nic and Sheilagh volunteered through Canadian Humanitarian, an organization for international relief. The group’s focus is to work with orphaned and vulnerable children, to ensure they receive education, health care and proper nutrition. It’s understood that young people of a village who can grow up healthy, with the privilege of an education, can eventually get a decent job, help other family members and break the cycle of poverty. Nic and Sheilagh’s experience changed their lives forever, and prompted them to consider how they could make a difference to improve the lives of people in such a resilient, yet impoverished nation.

Continued on Page 3...
Editor’s Note

This edition of *Road Runner* shows employees going after all kinds of goals. Whether it’s protecting people, bears and Western toads on B.C.’s highways; helping orphaned children in impoverished African communities; or enjoying a few laughs to recharge during the long hours and endless challenges of dealing with record-setting floods, ministry employees have been seeking out innovative solutions and taking steps to get there. This is well-expressed in a quote from a recent ministry video (also highlighted in this issue):

*The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.*

– Vince Lombardi

In addition, this issue of *Road Runner* unveils the results of our reader survey, conducted in August and September. Read on to hear what you had to say, and what’s ahead for our employee newsletter.

Nancy McLeod, Editor
Shortly after they returned from Africa in 2009, they conceived the idea to organize a fundraiser mountain bike race, in the Summerland area. They named the event “Test of Humanity.” What may have initially seemed like a simple thing, grew into a near full-time obsession. There were sponsors to line up, web sites to build, a fundraising platform to design and a million tasks that kept them busy, for a year and half prior to the event.

Besides the effort to organize the race, trails had to be built that could challenge a variety of participants from children (age three to six years) to elite, high-performance riders. Mostly on their own, but also with the help of friends, the trails took shape. Nic was able to confirm sponsors that would support the race, and found many who were able to provide materials and in-kind support.

One of the key sponsors was Argo Road Maintenance. Argo provided heavy equipment to build an access road and parking lots and a water truck to prevent dust storms. Nic and Sheilagh wish to express their full gratitude to Argo and its employees

Rob Wiens, Rick Taggart, Rick Morris and Tim Daechsel, who took time on their days off to ensure the race would be a huge success. Not only did Tim Daechsel work on his days off, he also entered the race and took second place in the Elite Over 40 category. Congratulations Tim!

In addition to Argo’s contributions, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure also had a strong showing in the volunteer category with Ron Domanko, Steve Portman, Joe Peterson, Patti Sandham and Tanya McKinney all of whom worked tirelessly to make this a great event. Scott Aitken, John Buffery and Mike Boissonneault responded to Nic’s challenge by both volunteering for and entering the race. Scott and “Buff” ended up with a very respectable performance in the team category. Mike, who is a die-hard “roader” (rider of road bikes vs. mountain bikes) survived the beginner category and finished with only minor flesh wounds.

The race was held on Sept. 25 and attracted 198 competitors, of whom a large percentage collected pledges that will be used to improve the lives of children in Ethiopia. The day before the race was action packed for the group of volunteers helping out. No one worked harder than Nic and Sheilagh, both of whom stayed up until well past midnight, then were up by 4 a.m. on race day, for final preparations.

Their hard work paid off, and the race was a great success. As Nic has said since the beginning of this effort, “What a great feeling we can all share – by having fun riding a bike, we can also help to build lives.” While the initial goal was to raise $5,000, the final tally was nearly $40,000!

Surprising results…yes…but knowing Nic and Sheilagh, this is likely just the beginning.

Next year’s event is scheduled for Sept. 23. Watch Nic’s video and check out the website www.testofhumanity.com/
Long Service Celebrated

The Long Service Awards are an opportunity to recognize those individuals in the B.C. public service who have 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service. We celebrated our ministry honourees in Victoria on Oct. 20. Congratulations to our 2011 award recipients:

25 Year Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isabel Allan</th>
<th>Keith Aviss</th>
<th>Kay Bamford</th>
<th>Doug Beaumont</th>
<th>Loretta Carlson</th>
<th>Stefano Condotta</th>
<th>Debbie Garofano</th>
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<td>Carl Kastelan</td>
<td>Les Gilburg</td>
<td>Chuck Hutchinson</td>
<td>Carol McDonald</td>
<td>Susan Keldsen</td>
<td>Cory Lawton</td>
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<td>William Moore</td>
<td>Laurie Nikkels</td>
<td>Hans Oelker</td>
<td>Larry Park</td>
<td>Joyce Pool</td>
<td>Wayne Ronald</td>
<td>David Sarsiat</td>
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<td>Michelle Schilling</td>
<td>Fred Seychuk</td>
<td>John Shaw</td>
<td>Tim Silbermagel</td>
<td>Jenna Sparks</td>
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30 Year Recipients

| Art Barry           | Leo Belanger       | Valerie Bell       | Dave Byng          | Murray Campbell    | Mark Carey          | Sam Casler         |
| Robert Corey        | Jack Crich         | Gary Farnden       | Ross Ford          | Terry Harbicht     | Doug Harms          | Svein Haugen       |
| Keith Kazakoff      | Margaret Lovell    | Rick Marven        | Rod Mochizuki      | Peter Muirhead     | Bob Neville         | Bob O’Brien        |
| Chris Peck          | Kareen Peters      | Rick Robertson     | Brent Scott        | Don Shaw           | Rodney Shaw         | Udo Sommer         |
| George Symons       | John Ure           | Gary Watkinson     | Wes Wiebe          | Dale Wood          | Tito Zannella       |                    |

35 Year Recipients

| Dan Bella           | Lorne Bonderoff    | Denise Brummell    | Crystal Chenier    | Ed Dodds           | Rampaul Dulay       | Jim Hegan          |
| Rusty Hewitt        | Jeffrey Jones      | Martin Madelung    | Malcolm Makayev    | Stewart Miller     | Harvey Nelson       | Robert Penner      |
| Richard Prill       | Dave Schleppe      | Sue Stankievech    | Rob Strouchers     | Simon Stubbs       | Dave Turner         | Max Walker          |

40 Year Recipients

| Al Goddyn           | Mark Hallam        | Ron Mathieson      | Mike Skands        |                    |                    |                    |

45 Year Recipient

| Peter Davies        |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |

Long Service Award winners were honoured at Government House: (back row) Ron Mathieson, Mark Hallam, Michael Skands and Peter Davies, and (front row) Alan Goddyn with Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Blair Lekstrom and Deputy Minister Grant Main.
Catching a Slide Before It Slides
Submitted by Katie Ward, District Operations Technician (TELP)

Highway 31A, a winding, scenic drive between New Denver and Kaslo, is extremely popular with tourists, cyclists and motorcyclists. This section of roadway caught some attention this spring with the YouTube video “From Flood to Fine,” created by our Social Media Branch. After heavy rains in May, a section of slope slid into the adjacent Kaslo River, causing flooding that blocked the highway for several hours. Crews from Yellowhead Road and Bridge (West Kootenay) went into emergency mode to reopen the highway in record time.

Recently, Area Manager Bruce Lintott identified more loose material at the same site. A geotechnical investigation showed that there was a high likelihood of slope failure when conditions turned wet and cold. A large amount of material would surely block the river and cause significant damage. Not only would our highway be impacted, but the spawning grounds of rainbow trout and bull trout would be disrupted or eliminated. (The bull trout is particularly sensitive to human activities and natural events, and is considered to be at risk of being threatened or endangered.)

In an unprecedented move, the ministry joined forces with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Masse Environmental Consultants and Yellowhead Road and Bridge. Together, they created a plan to proactively remove the material with as little impact to the fish habitat as possible.

The tight river valley had no room for the material to go, other than into the Kaslo River. To mitigate this and to safeguard the highway from any mishaps during the operation, two large steel pipes were placed side by side, in the river. This allowed the specialized 65-foot “long reach” excavator, hired from Cull Bros. contracting in Creston, to use the pipes as a platform for debris coming off the steep slope. Meanwhile, the river could keep flowing through the pipes. An environmental monitor was on site for the duration of the project, to monitor the turbidity of the river and provide direction to protect the fish habitat. Once the slope was stabilized, and the debris was removed from on top of the pipes, the pipes were taken away.

To say that this unconventional approach was successful, is an understatement. Throughout the project, very little sediment made it to the river. The project was able to move along faster than anticipated and finish within the fisheries “in stream work” window. Representatives on site from the federal and B.C. governments were very happy with how the project went. Once the slope work was completed, improvements to the fish habitat were made within the stream channel.

This proactive collaboration was a fantastic example of what is accomplished when ministries work together. Considerable damage to fish habitat and infrastructure was avoided through teamwork and some “outside the box” thinking.

Keep an eye out for upcoming social media coverage.
People come from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty of British Columbia. For those travelling from heavily urbanized countries, seeing any species of wildlife is often a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The Sea-to-Sky Highway (Highway 99) offers international visitors in Vancouver the opportunity to easily access Whistler, one of the world’s most famous and popular vacation destinations. From Squamish to Whistler, the Sea-to-Sky Highway corridor passes through spectacular scenery, and near the habitat of a growing number of black bears.

Nothing stops traffic like a bear, especially a mother bear with her cubs. Consequently, “bear jams” can be problematic for motorists. The situation becomes even more challenging when tourists, who are unfamiliar with North American wildlife, leave their vehicles to observe and photograph bears along the highway.

Early in the spring, the ministry was approached by Get Bear Smart Society Executive Director Sylvia Dolson and Bear Aware Community Coordinator Meg Toom (District of Squamish), to see if steps could be taken to protect bears and motorists along the Sea-to-Sky Highway corridor. Both Sylvia and Meg have been instrumental in raising bear awareness among people who live in the area, from Squamish to Whistler. In 2010, as a result of their efforts, the District of Squamish was the second community in the province to receive Bear Smart Accreditation from the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

The Bear Smart Community program is a voluntary, preventative conservation program, developed by MoE in partnership with the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, to reduce conflicts between humans and bears.

At meetings organized by Sylvia, Meg and Get Bear Smart Society Project Coordinator Dawn Johnson, I discussed the situation with Miller Capilano Maintenance Operations Manager Larry Paradis. We also met with representatives. Continued on Page 7…
of the Squamish First Nation, RCMP and British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, to brainstorm ways to protect the bears between Squamish and Whistler. Following the meetings, I kept in close contact with Sylvia, Meg, Dawn and Larry. On a daily basis, over the course of the summer, Sylvia, Dawn and Meg kept the ministry posted on where bears were being seen along the Sea-to-Sky Highway and Callaghan Road corridors. They also reported on “bear jam” locations, where large numbers of vehicles were stopping along the highway so motorists could observe bears. Ministry Environmental Roadside Manager Crystal Wheeler has been assessing the characteristics of the highway and the land around it, to help the ministry to understand this situation better.

In the meantime, drawing inspiration from a “mother bear and cub” warning sign developed by the California Department of Transportation, Senior Traffic Engineer Jerry Froese and Sign Technologist Brian Lloyd designed an impressive new bear warning sign for the ministry. The signs were designed to be folded closed, to hide their message, when not needed. They can be opened from early spring to late fall - the time when MoE Large Carnivore Specialist Tony Hamilton says bears are usually active along the Sea-to-Sky Highway and Callaghan Road areas. By closing the signs in the winter when bears are hibernating, the messages hold their relevance for motorists, when the warnings are needed.

While the signs are intended to let motorists know about the potential for bears along the Sea-to-Sky Highway corridor, special “Do Not Feed Bears” tabs are included to discourage motorists from feeding bears. In British Columbia, feeding wildlife is illegal, and offenders can be fined up to $100,000.

While most bears tend to avoid humans, bears are opportunistic creatures when food is concerned. Upon wakening from a long winter’s hibernation, a bear’s first instinct is to look for food. Unfortunately, when bears are fed, they become accustomed to humans. These bears may allow people to approach more closely than a wary bear would. Bears that become too habituated to humans are often wrongly perceived as “tame”. This can lead to a tourist approaching a bear too closely, and then being injured or killed when the bear feels threatened. Feeding bears along highways also encourages the bears to remain nearby. This places bears at greater risk of injury or death, if they are struck by motor vehicles.

Five sets of bear warning signs were produced by Sherine Industries Ltd., in Surrey, and shipped to Squamish. Working closely with Miller Capilano Maintenance Corporation staff, Squamish Area Manager Jesse Morwood arranged for the installation of the bear warning signs.

Three signs were recently installed along the Sea-to-Sky Highway. The other two are located along Callaghan Road en route to Whistler Olympic Park. The signs were installed in time to warn motorists about any bears still roaming in the area, before the onset of winter and bear hibernation. Even with the bear warning signs in place, the ministry continues to explore strategies and opportunities for protecting both bears and motorists, along the Squamish to Whistler corridor. ♦

Need help with Twitter?
Joey Alain provides video tutorials at 142.24.12.133/sircast
Topics include signing up, making your first tweet, Twitter on a Blackberry, following users and using the #hash command.
In August and September, we invited the ministry’s 1,400 or so employees to tell us what they wanted to stop, start and change with the Road Runner. We wanted to find out how our publication by and for employees, was doing at providing readers with what they wanted. Road Runner has a long history – going back to 1963 – and close to 10 years ago, it became an employee-driven publication. It was time to check in.

Altogether, 84 respondents – six per cent of employees – submitted a total of 127 comments. Overall, three themes emerged. Readers wanted Road Runner to be more fun, to offer more learning or tips, and to be more personal.

Some of this I can instigate. Plans are in the works to generate some light-hearted content – especially the kind that involves reader participation.

As to the learning and tips, the survey results are being shared with the Employee Advisory Forum (EAF), given its focus on career development, work/life balance, making the most of technological changes, recognition and improving communication between employees and Executive. (These are reflected in the functions of the five EAF Teams). The EAF’s role in employee engagement and the Road Runner are closely linked.

In addition, the survey results have been provided to our ministry’s manager of internal communications, for further consideration and action.

The more personal content requested (eg. staff profiles) is largely determined by you.

In fact, Road Runner’s content – what is covered and how it’s covered – is overwhelmingly directed by you. Our newsletter’s readers are its current and future contributors. As editor, I occasionally provide a story, but about 98 per cent of the content is from other employees who write articles, take photos and send in their submissions.

So, if you have a story idea about an intriguing co-worker, a stimulating contest or quiz, or some educational information of wide interest, please act on it. If you’re not sure it’s suited to Road Runner, or how to put it all together, drop me a line and we can talk it over. Or find a co-worker who likes to write and suggest they submit the article. It’s the different voices and perspectives of employees throughout our ministry that make Road Runner a unique publication in the B.C. public service. Our employee newsletter expresses the diversity of the work we each do, and each person’s individuality.

I’m pleased at the reader response to our survey – both the quantity and the thought that went into the comments. There were some excellent suggestions for future articles (see sidebar). About 20 per cent of those who responded to the survey said don’t change anything, which tells me we’re on the right track. There were also comments on Road Runner’s format, and we’re now looking at ways to make reading the newsletter, easier.

Thanks so much to everyone who responded to the survey, by sharing their views and sending in their ideas. My appreciation goes to anyone who has ever contributed to Road Runner, or plans to contribute in the future. And, I’m grateful to the employees who take the time to connect with the rest of their colleagues in the ministry, by reading or browsing Road Runner.

A Sampling of What Readers Said

More about projects and the work of operational groups

Profiles of work units and people – more about the people themselves

Focus on the group fun to be had – not the feat itself

More articles by new people – their perspectives are most important

Stories about past experiences – I think a lot of our folks have interesting stories to share from their past, and what they know about our past.

A section called “From the Archives” (photos of employees who appeared in the Road Runner way back.)

Articles that address retention, like new technology, “What I learned from the old guy,” and “the best thing about my mentor.”

Funny jokes, cartoons, photo competitions, contests, quizzes, puzzles

Information on seminars, classes and things which may benefit my career

Teach me something

Road Runner
Check out the ministry’s latest newsletter by and for employees!

RoadRunner
Check out the ministry’s latest newsletter by and for employees!
The Big ShakeOut 2011
Submitted by Samantha Eburne, Senior Project Manager

It’s not going to happen, it’s not going to happen…but what if it did? Though an earthquake cannot be prevented from happening, we can be prepared in case it does.

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut took place on Oct. 20. This year was a huge success, with more than 530,000 people across the province participating in the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history. The Great ShakeOut helps everyone become more aware of what to do when in an emergency situation. This year’s drill had the most participants ever, and will continue to grow in years to come, as people become more aware of the event.

On Oct. 20, when the clock struck 10:20 a.m., staff at all three regional offices and headquarters, took part in the Big ShakeOut, with either an earthquake or fire drill. In some offices, staff practiced the earthquake procedure of “Drop, Cover and Hold On,” while others calmly took to the stairs and exited the building for their fire drill. Around B.C., information booths were set up and the regional offices took the opportunity to share information and tasty treats. At Headquarters in Victoria, a lunch and learn session was provided by our very own Senior Bridge Seismic and Structural Health Monitoring Engineer Sharlie Huffman. Sharlie shared her “earth shattering” experiences from when she visited earthquake-hit areas in China in 2008, and Chile in 2010.

The Big ShakeOut 2011 was considered a great success. Special thanks to the coordinators: Judy Gunderson and Linda-Lee Schell (Northern Region), Crystal Chenier (Southern Interior Region) and Dawn Hinze and Chantelle Gergley (Southern Coast Region).

Fire wardens from the Kamloops transportation building, following an evacuation drill: (back row) Sue Pare, Brian Lloyd, Bonnie Fadden, Elaine Shibata and Paul Riegert, and (front row) Paul Imada, Pam Grosjean and Lawrence Barichello.

Northern Regional Manager of Corporate and Operational Services Maria Braden and Regional Director Mike Lorimer take cover under a boardroom table.

Joyce Grant demonstrates “Drop, Cover and Hold On” in the South Coast Regional Office.
Driving Toward Winter on the Kicking Horse
Submitted by Leanne Flood, Stakeholder Relations

Staff on the Kicking Horse Canyon Project are wrapping up a number of projects to help travellers this winter.

Three brand-new signs and one restored older sign have recently been installed as part of an intelligent transportation system, that will provide timely information on traffic conditions through this Rocky Mountain section of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Two new changeable message signs (CMS) now located along the Trans-Canada Highway, and one new variable message sign on Highway 95, provide drivers with information on conditions in the Kicking Horse Canyon. As well, the one existing CMS has been modernized and will continue to provide information on highway conditions for travellers going west from Golden.

Messages on the signs can be changed remotely, as quickly as conditions change, and information is also linked directly through the DriveBC Traveller Information System.

Senior Project Manager Jon Jensen says, “I’m happy that the sign system came online before wintertime, as the signs will keep travellers aware of the latest road conditions, which can change extremely quickly in the mountains.”

Two other contracts are just finishing up as well. The one-kilometre Golden Hill Path for cyclists and pedestrians was completed in October and is being used to safely traverse the steep grade between town and the Golden Donald Upper Road area.

“Working with the Town of Golden, we’ve built an alternative route for families in the community to walk and cycle between town and the homes of the upper bench,” said Murray Tekano, Senior Project Director. “This provides a great enhancement to their active living plan and the Golden lifestyle.”

As well, substantial completion was reached on the $28-million design-build contract for improvements on the 3.8-kilometre Golden Hill to West Portal section of the project. This upgrade included four-laning, an overpass at Golden Donald Upper Road and wildlife protection (overpass, fencing and ungulate guards to keep grazing animals from getting onto the highway from access roads).

This is nice work by the team in Golden, with lots of progress made in 2011. Who knows, maybe some of our staff can take some days off for skiing this winter! ♦
Cheryl Lawrence – Regional Financial Analyst

Submitted by Jennifer Locke, EAF Team Road to Opportunity

Education, temporary assignments and mentors have helped Cheryl Lawrence progress steadily in the financial field, during her decade of service with the provincial government.

Cheryl began working in the B.C. public service, as an OA2 records clerk at the Oil and Gas Commission, in Fort St. John, in 2001. After taking on temporary assignments as a FOI/records analyst, an administrative assistant and a finance clerk, Cheryl knew that she wanted to be part of the finance department. From there, she chose her career path.

She looked into the requirements for a regional financial analyst, and following the advice of a manager at the Oil and Gas Commission, and further research, she began the Financial Management Certificate Program. Being a single mother of two, Cheryl took the combination of certified general accountant and government-specific courses, on a part-time basis, through Open University. She started the program in July 2003, and persevered until she graduated last year. Cheryl also earned her Certificate in Management Studies at the same time.

Cheryl has taken on numerous temporary assignments throughout her career, and says that she learned valuable skills and lessons from each one. This work has guided her career path, enabling her to recognize where her strengths lie, and understand when positions did not suit her. “Never be afraid to try something new – challenge yourself and look for new opportunities,” she says.

In December 2003, Cheryl became a financial analyst/contract co-ordinator with the Oil and Gas Commission.

Then, in August 2005, she moved to Kamloops where she worked as an accounts payable clerk with the Ministry of Environment. Within three weeks, she was offered a temporary assignment in Accounts Receivable, supporting Land and Water BC. (Which of course, she took.) When the agency was dismantled, she worked as a tenures administrator for the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.

In 2008, Cheryl joined the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as a contract administrator. This led to a temporary assignment as a regional financial analyst for Provincial Field Services, which became permanent, when she won the competition this spring.

Cheryl credits the government’s employee education program for helping her financially to achieve her academic goals. “Government has been very good to me, providing me with opportunities to develop additional skills that I can contribute to my workplace.”

Other ways that Cheryl has advanced her career include clarifying work and career goals in her Employee Performance and Development Plan, networking/relationship building, job shadowing and taking on side projects. Cheryl also recognizes her managers’ role in mentoring her and is appreciative of their support. She says the guidance and advice of a mentor are extremely useful, and that she would consider mentoring another employee.

Cheryl enjoys the challenges of her job, learning something new every day, and working with great people in her work unit and Provincial Field Services. She is happy living in Kamloops with her youngest son, who will graduate from high school this year, and is pleased to be in a new marriage. Her career focus these days is on finishing her diploma in Management Studies through Thompson Rivers University’s Open Learning, taking in on-the-job training and learning more about the ministry’s business.

Looking forward, Cheryl has her sights set on obtaining a managerial position. “It’s always about continuous learning and constantly being challenged.”
CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Joyce Pool – District Services Manager
Submitted by Matti Youd, for EAF Road to Opportunity Team

Joyce Pool describes herself as being like a dog with a bone when it comes to finding out job-relevant information. That tenacity has paid off.

“Ask Joyce, she will know,” is a common expression around the office. Joyce is the District Services Manager for the Vancouver Island District Office in Nanaimo, and describes the day-to-day duties of her role as remarkably diverse, “I never know what challenge, issue or task I might encounter from day to day – sometimes moment to moment.”

Joyce was originally hired as summer relief staff in 1987, and has since worked in many areas, including property services, finance, and planning. Before accepting the role of District Services Manager in 2002, Joyce held the position of Assistant to Neville Hope, who was Regional Director of what was formerly Vancouver Island Region (Region 6).

She is happy that her career choices have kept her in the clerical and administrative fields because she enjoys being involved in the behind-the-scenes work, ensuring that everything gets done well and runs smoothly.

Joyce had a high school diploma when she started working with the ministry, and over the years has taken many professional development courses, such as conflict management, rebuilding toolkit, coaching, stress management, insights into personal effectiveness and other “people courses,” as she calls them. Although those courses were useful to her day-to-day activities, she also attributes her true success to on-the-job experience and to the people she has worked with over the years.

“It’s key to surround yourself with great people…those great people have helped,” says Joyce. For example, she recalls a manager once telling her that a job is like being bound by an elastic band, and you should stretch that elastic band as much as possible. “Of course, there were times when the band snapped back on me,” she laughs. “But it did help me get into areas of work that I may not have ventured into, had I not stretched that elastic band.”

Interested in a similar position? Try to gain as much knowledge and expertise as possible – answering the phone and responding to public enquiries; doing budgets, financial work, records management and human resources; and managing people, projects and time (just to name a few skill sets). Joyce also recommends taking an interest in the district as a whole – asking questions and learning about what other people, branches and business units do. Exposure to different facets of the ministry provides the experience needed for the challenges of this kind of position.

When not at work, Joyce enjoys fishing with her husband, travelling, and golfing with her wonderful group of friends. Her favourite expression gives us a hint as to how she copes with the variety of challenges in her career and with life as a whole: “Carry on as if you were normal.”

Email Overload Part 3
Tips and Tricks to Tidy-Up Your Online In-Basket
Submitted by EAF Team Balancing Act

Here are more strategies to reduce stress and workload, by tidying up your online in-basket.

Create Categories to Manage Your Messages

A better way to think of categories is as labels that help you find, sort, filter and classify your messages. Categories colour-code your emails and organize them in the To-Do Bar to the right of your inbox. The following three steps will show you how to create categories.

Step One: In Outlook, under the Edit menu, go to Categorize, and click All Categories.

Step Two: From here you can customize the colours and name of categories as they relate to your emails. Useful categories might include “Financial Info,” “Training” or your supervisor’s name.

Step Three: You can categorize your emails when they are in your inbox or when they’re open.

Step Four: In your To-Do Bar (if it is not showing, under the View menu, click To-Do Bar), right click the Arranged By: and select Categories. Your messages will appear under each category for quick reference.

You can also create a rule to categorize emails automatically!

Anything that helps us work more efficiently helps us keep life in balance, which is what it is all about.

Happy emailing! ✪

Previous Issue: Tips and Tricks for Creating Rules to Manage Your Incoming Messages. ✪
Employees Run for the Cure
Submitted by Ryan Spillett EAF, Team Balancing Act; Kimberly Newton, Strategic Human Resources; and Loretta Carlson, Secretary

In the Greater Vancouver area, Team Captain Pam Paul organized a group of BC MoT Road Runners, which was made up of her co-workers from the Lower Mainland District and South Coast Region, plus their family and friends. The event started and ended near Pacific Boulevard and Carrall Street in Vancouver. “I’m sure there was a blanket of pink that covered the area from Rogers Arena to Science World,” says ministry participant Loretta Carlson. “This was my first time in the run, and I was truly moved by the many teams and individuals that attended this event.”

The EAF’s Team Balancing Act created awareness of the event, and promoted it as part of last month’s Healthy Workplace Month. Thanks go to all the organizers and participants, and the employees who pledged funds. ♦

Photos continued on Page 13…

On Sunday, Oct. 2, 50 ministry employees from across the province showed their support for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, by taking part in the 20th annual Run for the Cure. The participants ran or walked a route of one or five kilometres. Together, the employees raised $3,190 for breast cancer research, education and awareness programs.

Ministry employees joined people from around Canada to raise more than $30 million for breast cancer programs.

BC MoT Road Runners team: (back row) Megan Brynelson, Loretta Carlson, Deborah Tan, Anne Taguchi, Graeme Schimpf, Sonny Parmar, Mitch Parmar, Jaipaul Parmar and Ashok Bhatti; and (front row) Trinna Carlson (kneeling), Pamela Paul, Geetu Parmar, Neetu Bhatti and Aashaan Bhatti (in stroller).

Kamloops (pre-run): (back row) Bonnie Cameron, Jeanne Reeves, Shawn Grant, and Dave Retzer; and (front row) Carrie Stiles-Freeman and Courtney Grant.

Prince George: Raylene Otto and Pat Egan are all smiles at the finish line.

Victoria (pre-run): Lionel Cai, Leeanne Jones, Sarah Duggan, Rosita Petruzelli, Gillian Moxham, Lorena Gent and Graham Young.
Did You Know?

FACTS ABOUT PAY AND BENEFITS – MATERNITY AND PARENTAL LEAVE

Submitted by Joan Brickwood, EAF Team Appreciation

• Maternity leave has been increased to 17 weeks (15 weeks plus two-week waiting period).

• Parental leave (available to either parent) has increased to 37 weeks, from 35 weeks (to a maximum of 52 weeks of combined maternity and parental leave).

• Both leaves are without pay, however employment insurance (EI) benefits and leave allowance are available.

• You are entitled to take the two-week EI benefit waiting period as unpaid leave immediately before the maternity or parental leave. You will receive a leave allowance equivalent to two weeks at 85 per cent of your basic pay.

• Only one two-week waiting period need be served if parental benefits are being shared. However, if both parents have similar benefits, a second waiting period could be served prior to parental leave at the 85 per cent of your basic pay rate.

• Maternity leave allowance is the difference between EI benefits (and any other earnings) and 85 per cent of your basic pay.

• Parental leave allowance is the difference between EI benefits (and any other earnings) and 75 per cent of your basic pay.

For more information: Maternity, Parental, and Pre-Placement Adoption Leave Package https://logon.gov.bc.ca/clp-cgi/int01/private/postLogon.cgi

If you need further clarification, contact MyHR at: myhr@gov.bc.ca or call toll free: 1-877-277-0772, or in Victoria and Vancouver: 2-6000 (250-952-6000). ♦
New From the EAF

The Employee Advisory Forum has a new website. Visit us for a video overview of how we partner with our ministry executive to continuously improve our workplace. Check out the tabs to find out who is on the EAF’s five teams, what we’ve done and what’s in progress, and to provide feedback on how we’re doing.

You can also download and customize the meeting agenda template developed by the EAF that captures the ministry’s vision statement. Enter your information into the template and you’ll show up looking efficient, organized and focussed.

Healthy Workplaces Year Round

Submitted by Ryan Spillett, Team Balancing Act Team Lead

Did you know October was Healthy Workplace Month? Well, in the spirit of Healthy Workplace Month, the Employee Advisory Forum’s Team Balancing Act published a four-part weekly series of articles on the EAF website covering:

- A healthy workplace
- Nutritional tips
- Quitting smoking
- Stress reduction in the workplace

All are great reads and they include some inspiring personal stories as well. If you missed one (or more) of these in October, you can find them all on the EAF website.
The Work We Do, and Why We Do It – The Road Builders Video

Submitted by Russel Lolacher, Social Media Director

At the Road Builders Conference each fall, it’s customary for the Assistant Deputy Minister of Highways to address the crowd, informing them of where we’ve been and where we’re going together as ministry and maintenance contractors. This year was a little different.

As part of Dave Duncan’s presentation, a video was created to highlight the work being done across B.C. in grading, paving, maintenance and bridge work. But it wasn’t the work that was the focus so much as the people that are out there maintaining our roadways and making them safe. Ministry staff from all districts went out and shot video footage of the various contractors and transportation staff, asking them what they do and why they do it. From the Peace to Vancouver Island, to the Kootenays and the Okanagan, staff shared their pride in contributing to building our province.

The video contained some great comments, but my favourite had to be Yellowhead Road and Bridge Maintenance’s Ron Johnston, who was asked, “What do you love most about your job?” Ron responded, “The smell of fresh dirt and diesel smoke. It’s in my blood.”

You can’t make that stuff up.

Thanks to video editors Al Szczawinski, Kathy Macovichuk, Kristen Reimer and Beverly van Druten-Blais, as well as the unbelievable group of MoT staff across all three regions that provided the footage needed to make this video such a success. At the conference, I heard the audience not only laugh as they recognized themselves and their co-workers, but also continually say how great the video was. As many projects as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is involved in, it’s the people that make it possible. Cheesy…but very, very true.

Check out this link to the video.

From the Peace to Vancouver Island, to the Kootenays and the Okanagan, ministry and maintenance contractor employees shared their thoughts on building our province.
On the Move Again: The Great Annual Summit Lake Western Toad Migration

Submitted by Leonard Sielecki, Wildlife and Environmental Issues Specialist / Photos by Katie Ward, District Operations Technician (TELP)

Among the great wildlife migrations in the world, the annual Western Toad migration at Summit Lake in the Kootenays, is a natural phenomenon that attracts hundreds of spectators every August. Just south of Nakusp, along Highway 6, Summit Lake is one of the key breeding areas for Western toads in British Columbia. In the spring, adult Western toads descend from upland habitat to lay their eggs on the shores of Summit Lake. Later in the summer, tens of thousands of juvenile toadlets start to emerge from the lake and make their way back to upland areas. There the toadlets forage until they reach adulthood, when they return to Summit Lake to breed and complete their migration circle. During these migration periods, either toads or toadlets cross Highway 6.

Once widespread throughout North America, the number of Western toads has diminished considerably, especially in the United States and southwestern B.C. Habitat loss and road mortality are suspected to be among the leading causes for this decline. In Canada, Western toads are federally listed as a “species of concern.” However, in B.C., the toads are blue-listed and considered vulnerable by the Province. The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (BC MoT) pays particular attention to the protection of the province’s red and blue-listed species of wildlife.

This summer, as they have done in the past, BC MoT, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and BC Parks worked closely with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) to protect the Summit Lake toads. The FWCP is a joint initiative between BC Hydro, the Province of British Columbia and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, established to compensate for fish and wildlife habitat impacts caused by the Columbia River dams. Following the success of their collaborative effort in 2010, this multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional group planned the family-oriented, “Western Toad Events” for August at Summit Lake. The events were designed to raise awareness of the importance of the Summit Lake breeding site, and to help toadlets as they migrate from the lake shore to upland habitat.

West Kootenay District Manager Glenn Olleck and Nakusp Area Manager Bruce Lintot, worked with the ministry’s partners to arrange for displays at Summit Lake, and traffic control on Highway 6. As always, public safety was a paramount concern for the ministry; however, in this situation, toadlet safety was a priority too. Biologists from the FWCP conducted surveys at Summit Lake to determine when the toadlets were ready to migrate and once the start date of the migration was determined, media announcements were made. The Western Toad events were scheduled for Aug. 22 and 25. The public was invited to visit Summit Lake and learn more about Western toads, and help the toadlets cross Highway 6.

Over the course of two sunny weekdays, community response and participation was overwhelming. More than 500 people turned out for the events which ran from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and again from 5:30 to 7 p.m. each day. To provide a better educational experience Caution signs were erected to increase driver awareness of the migration occurring at Summit Lake.

Young toadlets, some still with a tadpole tail, wait on a fern frond for their safe release on the other side of Highway 6.

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On the Move Again: The Great Annual Summit Lake Western Toad Migration

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for the public and help build awareness of other amphibians and reptiles, FWCP biologists also captured and displayed adult Western toads, spotted frogs, snakes, alligator lizards and salamanders. Events also included a raffle for many environmentally-themed prizes.

Following guidance from Elke Wind, one of Canada’s leading Western Toad experts, ministry Graphics Production Technician Kathy Macovichuk designed some unique “Toad Xing” T-shirts for the raffle. The ministry also contributed copies of its Wildlife Identification Field Guide: Red and Blue Listed Amphibians and Reptiles in British Columbia as raffle prizes. Carbon Neutral Program Director Tom Greene provided many “green” items that fit the spirit of the events, like reusable canvas lunch bags, compostable pens and recycled paper notebooks.

The events attracted a lot of ministry staff and maintenance contractor attention and support. Glenn Olleck was on site keeping the motoring public and the event participants safe. West Kootenay District Program Engineer Ryan Oakley attended with his family. West Kootenay District TELP Katie Ward photographed all the activities.

Environmental Services Coordinator Donna Olsen and Assistant Environmental Coordinator Genevieve Pelletier also volunteered and gave numerous tours for groups as large as 20 people. At the start of each tour, Donna and Genevieve provided information on the biology of the toads, their life cycle, and the importance of the toad’s annual migration. To safeguard both the participants and the toadlets, they also provided instructions on the proper handling of the toadlets. Once the orientation was over, each group was given plastic buckets and taken to the lake shore and surrounding wetlands to collect toadlets. When enough toadlets were collected, Highway 6 was temporarily closed so the toadlets could be safely carried to the adjoining uplands.

Yellowhead Road and Bridge, the ministry’s maintenance contractor in the area, provided flagging services so the highway could be safely closed for short periods of time. Once everyone was across the highway, the toads were released behind an amphibian fence previously installed by BC MoT and MoE. Over the years and working closely with MoE, the ministry has undertaken various projects to protect Western toads by installing special amphibian fences to direct the toads into strategically located culverts, or “toad tunnels”. Currently, Western toad use of ministry “toad tunnels” is being monitored by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

With great weather, lots of activities for children and thousands of toadlets to help, the "Western Toad Events” provided the perfect family occasion to learn about the environment and witness firsthand an incredible natural phenomenon. It was a truly rewarding experience for the ministry participants too!

A mother and daughter carefully release Western toads on the safe side of an amphibian fence.

West Kootenay District Manager Glenn Olleck holds a tiny toad during his volunteer time at the Great Western Toad Migration Event.
Project managers from around the province toured the Port Mann Bridge/Highway 1 Improvement Project.

After a two-year hiatus, the much anticipated face-to-face Project Management Annual Meeting was held on June 15 and 16, in Richmond.

Historically, the project management meeting, with a specific theme, is held each year in a different location in the province. The event is hosted by the Project Management Delivery Group within that regional location, and this year the South Coast Region, lead by Val Fabick, was the host. Project Management Technician Neetu Bhatti was the project manager for delivering the event. The theme was “The Way Forward,” and Neetu did a great job organizing an informative and practical conference focussing on new technologies, updates on policies and approaches, lessons learned and various technical areas that influence project delivery.

“The conference builds an atmosphere for teamwork and is a great opportunity for project management groups from around the province to exchange ideas and share their experiences,” says Neetu.

The first day of the conference, Vancouver Canucks fever was running wild, with attendees sporting jerseys in support of game seven of the Stanley Cup. Much to everyone’s jealousy, there were a lucky few who got to see the game in person (yes, Greg Ross, we saw you sneak away!). The day included an Executive welcome from Infrastructure Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Richter, followed by presentations on the innovative Capilano Bridge Project, a new 3D modelling tool used to communicate with stakeholders on the Highway 97 project and the Weigh2GoBC Project, to name a few.

The second day started off somewhat more sombre due to the Canuck’s loss, but Masters of Ceremony Erin Moxon and Michael Dinney did a great job lifting spirits high with their witty introductions, and by keeping the agenda moving. Presentations included traffic control innovation, a Capital Program Board overview, the Stone Creek Bridge project which uses new “Sandwich Plate System” technology on the bridge deck and a perspective on “Being an Engineer-in-Training with BC MoT.” Chief Operating Officer Dave Byng provided an Executive view of project management in the ministry.

The conference wrapped up with an educational and inspiring tour of the Port Mann Bridge/Highway 1 Improvement Project, organized by Senior Project Manager David Mintak and Engineer-in-Training Joseph Adom.

For more information, the meeting agenda and presentations can be found on the Project Management Support Services intranet site.
This year has been record setting with the number of roads damaged by high water, flash flooding and mudslides across B.C.

While everyone came out from across the province, to put the pieces (roads) back together, the long hours and endless rain can tire you and make your stress levels rise. But, there are always moments of levity to bring you back to balance, so you can carry on.

So, here’s some photos, to show you a few of the events that gave us a chuckle or a diversion, as ministry employees dealt with the flooding on Highways 37 and 37A, and restored access for the town of Stewart. There is one tip for which we don’t have a photo. If you’re in a hotel room with a balcony, make sure you put something in the spring loaded door so you don’t get locked out at night in your sleepwear.

We at the Bulkley Stikine District wish to thank everyone who offered their help to us, in our time of need. And thanks for the fun memories too.

It gets cold in the north, in September. The long days don’t bode well for using truck fuel and batteries to run a heater, so a toasty fire is just what you need. It helps to get rid of the woody debris that blocks the culverts too.

In the course of duties, maybe you become a pit crew, for a tourist who has waited so patiently for the scheduled opening, only to have a flat tire as the road opens. Got to get that changed before the pilot car goes out of sight!

There’s so many different things that come at you so you have to come up with ideas quickly – just like Tracy Wynnyk, Bob Biagioni, Terry Murphy, John Ure, Alicia Kosolofski and Bryan Crosby.

When you’ve been sitting in the District Operation Centre war room for 12 hours a day, seven days a week dealing with this (above), a colourful pile of gummy bears can lead to no end of amusement.
CORRECTION:
Road Runner was notified in August, that Bob Petho’s Crew, had recently received the Field Services Best Paving Award three years in a row. Last edition of Road Runner stated in “Field Services Safety Awards 2010,” that the team had won the award for a second year.

Bob and his team of Bob Biagioni and Eric Robinson are justifiably proud of their three-time achievement and we’re pleased to set the record straight. I asked Bob what made his group so safety conscious, and how they have come out the winner for three years in a row. Below, Bob sets the scene in which he and his team work, and explains how everyone’s safety awareness becomes so highly tuned.

Safety Prized by Winning Paving Crew
Submitted by Bob Petho, Ministry Representative - Paving

Saturday, 2:30 p.m., and the sun is blazing. At 270 tonnes an hour, the paver is moving quickly down the road. Three rollers follow, to compact and smooth the hot (135°C), freshly laid asphalt. Traffic in the adjacent lane slows to 50 km/h as drivers try and go by the equipment in a rush to reach their destinations. All we are is a hindrance, an obstacle; a noise that drowns out their iPad; a smell that makes them cover their nose and mouth.

At the start of the procession, haul trucks are ready to dump their loads of hot asphalt onto the road in front of the pickup machine. The “dump person” walks close to the road’s centerline signalling to the truck driver how much asphalt to release, so that the pickup machine can take up the asphalt and transfer it to the paver. This person’s safety is in the hands of the flagger who is standing close by monitoring the traffic. Motorists watch all the workers who seem almost oblivious to the traffic. Each worker performs their function automatically…so many times the same routine, this season, last season, all the seasons before…

And yet at the end of the day, as with every other day, each worker will end their shift uninjured. The public will have again driven by safely on their way. And the project will be further along.

In a daily environment such as this, safety is in your subconscious, a part of you – like breathing. In a split second, you could be injured from the equipment or the traffic going by. During that split second your mind should be on what’s happening around you. The unforeseen must be expected.

We, the members of my team, pride ourselves in leading by example, whether in the field or in the office…speaking daily about safety, what could happen, what has happened in the past. It’s all to keep safety fresh in our minds. Safety is a team effort, not just an individual one.

“In an environment such as this, safety is in your subconscious, a part of you – like breathing,” says Bob Petho.
Ministry Folks on the Road Again for Second GranFondo
Submitted by Holly Adems, Special Events Coordinator

At 5 a.m. on Sept. 10, the first eager cyclists began gathering on Vancouver’s Georgia Street, to gear up for their 122-kilometre trek from Vancouver to Whistler, in the second RBC GranFondo Whistler.

By 7 a.m., a festive atmosphere was in the air, as the huge cluster of 7,000 cyclists queued behind the start ribbon to hear “Oh Canada” sung by local musicians Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo, and Barney Bentall. Moments after the anthem, the ribbon was cut by officials including West Vancouver-Sea to Sky MLA Joan McIntyre, to kick off the event and signal the cyclists to hit the pavement on their journey through Vancouver and on to Highway 1 and the Sea-to-Sky-Highway (Highway 99).

The weather was beautiful and enthusiasm was high, as the first peloton of cyclists cut loose and swept across the Lions Gate Bridge, followed by a huge sea of cyclists. It was an impressive sight to behold, especially after a colourful sunrise!

Ministry employees, some who participated in the event for the second year, included Highways Assistant Deputy Minister Dave Duncan, Ian Pilkington, Mike Skands, Michael Braun, Alexander Ritchie, Frank Dacho and Scott Aitken. All conquered the many long hills and completed the full event, on a hot day with record-setting high temperatures.

“It was a great day to be cycling and a challenging route too,” said Scott Aitken, who finished as an outstanding 204 out of 7,000. Scott also placed 40th, in the 50-59 age group – pretty good for our 53-year-old avalanche technician. Also, Alexander Ritchie of the Information Management Branch in Victoria, had an impressive time of three hours and 55 minutes for the course route – a great finish!

Of course, the logistics of the GranFondo (Italian for “big ride”) on provincial routes, also had to be tackled, so some ministry employees were organizers. “An event of this complexity required super participation from ministry staff who worked long and hard in the event planning, alongside other key stakeholders,” said Ministry Special Events Coordinator Holly Adems.

Members of the ministry planning and operations team included Jesse Morwood, Holly Adems, Steve Carney, Erin Moxon, Dave Holloway, Debbie Derksen, Jackie Chambers, Bill Crichton, Thomas Chhun, Ernst Boeder, Glenn Callander, Jim Hegan, Graeme Schimpf and Marcus Saari. The ministry “Breakfast Club” gathered before dawn on the event day for a quick bite and shot of caffeine, prior to moving into position on the road.

It was a true team effort, with cooperation by various groups, including five municipalities, GranFondo Canada, police detachments, the Ministry of Health, BC Parks, Cobra Electric and our two stellar maintenance contractors: Miller Capilano Maintenance Corporation and Mainroad Contracting. Miller Capilano did a super job again this year, in placing the many traffic devices for the complex lane closures. Steve Donnelly of Miller Capilano, functioned as traffic supervisor and worked feverishly prior to the event on the multitude

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Ministry Crystal Ball: A Look at Our Future
Submitted by Russel Lolacher, Social Media Director

I’ve only been with the ministry a short while but have already been to a few highways operations meetings. When I was looking over the agenda for the latest one, which was held at this year’s Road Builders Conference, I noticed something a little different… the usual names did not appear.

The list of presenters included ministry staff who don’t usually get the opportunity to present to Executive and senior management, much less an audience that included Deputy Minister Grant Main and Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Richter. Over the next few hours, we were told of the work underway for emergency response, new communication tools, winter preparedness, highway safety statistics, public engagement in the Okanagan and the future of the Regional Transportation Management Centre (the new communication hub being constructed in the Lower Mainland).

The topics and fresh faces included:

- Emergency response
  - Hope slide and lessons learned – Kurt Edmonds
  - Avalanche closure and the Trans-Canada Highway – Scott Maxwell
  - Peace area flood event – Kyle Drummond and Brent Davies
- Okanagan Transportation Symposium – Kathryn Weicker
- Regional Transportation Management Centre – Brigid Canil
- Southern Interior Region web cast (SIR Webcast) – Joey Alain
- Coquihalla chain up protocol – Cole Delisle
- Highway safety – Joy Sengupta

What did I learn? A lot. Not only about some of the initiatives we have underway, and the effectiveness of them, but also that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has loads of talent within its ranks. These presenters were prepared, professional and informed, sharing their information in a way that really engaged those in attendance. I heard from multiple people about how impressed they were with the speakers, and how great it was to hear from them.

Have a look at these presentations posted on TRANnet.

Succession planning is a big topic within our ministry. As many of our staff move toward retirement, who will take their place? The Technical Entry Level Program and the Engineer-in-Training program are certainly making great strides, but I can also say I feel like I got a good glimpse of what our future looks like, during that afternoon in Kelowna.

Ministry Folks on the Road Again for GranFondo …Continued from Page 22

of traffic devices. On the big day, he worked diligently with other members of the Miller Capilano management team, including Steve Drummond, Larry Paradis, Tom Cloutier, Jamie DeCook, Merv Stalkie, Bob Blin, Ron Witt and several others. The Mainroad Contracting team consisted of Bob Devaney, John Smaller and Rob Singbeil, who also assisted with pre-event activities.

During the wee hours of Sept. 10, Steve and his crew worked in the dark, starting their shift at midnight. They placed 7,000 cones, 422 signs and 130 barricades. By 5:30 a.m., other operational staff joined the traffic team including 121 traffic control persons, 32 police officers, nine ministry staff, 53 contractor staff, and three electricians who adjusted signals along the route. All traffic staff worked in unison at key points on the ground, to ensure all went smoothly during the event.

All in all, it was a fantastic day and a crowd-pleasing event, marked by many milestone achievements.

Graeme Schimpf, RCMP Officer Catherine Reid and Holly Adems, in Whistler.
On Sept. 1, the Lower Mainland District (including staff who trekked in from Chilliwack and Sechelt) joined our first ever Eid Celebration. Eid is a three-day Islamic holiday dedicated to giving to others and eating sweet treats.

Eid-Ul-Fitr is celebrated at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. In Arabic, the meaning of Eid is festivity and Fitr means to break. Eid-Ul-Fitr means to celebrate the breaking of the month of fasting.

It is celebrated by Muslims worldwide, who have fasted during the month of Ramadan, from dawn to dusk. During the fast, Muslims abstain from eating and drinking and traditionally break their fasts with dates and water.

Muslims consider Ramadan a sacred and blessed month, a month during which the Holy Book Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is a month of believing, worshipping God and seeking his forgiveness. It’s a month of sharing with the less fortunate in society, charity giving and social work. In the spirit of giving, the Lower Mainland District office contributed to the local food bank.

The eve of the Eid–Ul-Fitr is exciting and glamorous, as people keenly look for the crescent new moon. Shopping malls, bazaars and local retailers experience a rush of shoppers for the last-minute purchase of Eid gifts. Women and young girls paint their hands with traditional henna and wear colourful bracelets. Children receive gifts and gift money (which is called Eidy) from parents and relatives. This is one reason small bank notes become a treasured commodity.

Just like Christmas, Eid brings out the best in home and street decoration. Women decorate their homes in their own special way to create a feel of Eid. Gourmet meals are prepared to serve family, guests and neighbours. Carnivals are set up in every town to provide entertainment to children and families.

Besides these fun activities, Eid–Ul-Fitr is a day to thank God for his blessings and to consider and help those who have been less fortunate. The month of Ramadan reminds people of the hardships of hunger; they experience the conditions that many people with limited resources experience every day.

As is traditional at Islamic celebrations, women wear red and men wear white, which we did at our district celebration. Naasir Malik also gave a speech about the holiday and meaning of Eid. Both Naasir and Umar Khattak wore traditional dress, and attendees said the two looked even more dapper than usual!

We had a huge diversity of food including curries, traditional sweets (plus Les Gilburg’s famous cream cheese, graham cracker and blueberry confection), chicken wings (thanks Dave Holloway), salads and some fantastic spinach dip and sourdough bread courtesy of Karen Schmidt.

It was wonderful that our geographically separate district was able to get together.

Eid Mubarak – May you enjoy a blessed festival!
Are These the Faces of Green Commuting?
Submitted by Kristen Reimer, Social Media Researcher/Writer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff heard about and tried out zero-emission transportation options, in Victoria, last month.

The event, organized by the Climate Action Secretariat, aimed at educating public servants on the greener pastures of commuting. In a follow up event to the Project Green Streets initiative, attendees had their choice of ride, in two and four-wheel format. The electric bike, powered by Dr. Battery, is part of a project to encourage public servants to cycle to and from work and meetings, and the Mitsubishi iMiev Electric Car had everyone charged up and ready to roll. ♦

Left: Senior Traffic Engineer Jerry Froese gives the thumbs up as he gets ready to roll in the Mitsubishi iMiev Electric Car.

Right: Chief Geotechnical, Materials and Pavement Engineer Ian Pilkington got behind the wheel to test drive the fully electric car.

SHOOT HIGH

When taking photographs for Road Runner, shoot high! Set your camera or cell phone at the highest resolution, to ensure the best-quality reproduction in Road Runner. Shooting at less than one megabyte in size can result in pixilation or graininess in your perfect picture.

Please submit your original JPEGS, in full size, to Nancy.McLeod@gov.bc.ca or to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca
I was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the Sea-to-Sky Highway Tour, arranged by Operations Maintenance and Rehab Technician Ernst Boeder, and hosted by Miller Capilano Maintenance Corporation. As a new employee, it was valuable to learn firsthand about the work the ministry does.

Anyone who has driven on the Sea-to-Sky Highway (also known as Highway 99) can see that it’s visually stunning, but there’s a lot of captivating background information that I was happy to learn.

The tour began with Miller Capilano hosts Larry Paradis and Merv Stalkie, and Concessionaire Daisy Ng joining us. We were led on a walk up to the Charles Creek Basin to get a better view, and were amazed with the scope of how grand it was. From there we went to Porteau Cove, where Merv told us about rock bolting of the bluffs and other strategies to keep the highway as safe as possible. The tour continued into Squamish, where we had a delicious lunch at the Squamish Golf and Country Club.

Later, the guys at Miller Capilano demonstrated the result of micro-surfacing – the installation of a new wearing surface that seals the pavement. It levels out small imperfections, making the journey smoother and surprisingly, much quieter.

We headed to Whistler and had an informative and picturesque tour of Whistler Olympic Park, hosted by Manager Lindsay Durno. It was so fascinating to see everything close up. We were also taken to see spectacular Alexander Falls within the park.

Larry and Merv took the time to show us how the Stawamus Chief, the granite dome located adjacent to Squamish, acquired its name. They pointed out markings on the mountain – and even a few I had never noticed before. We saw everything – including an up close and personal view of the frog fences built to keep the frogs from becoming roadkill, where the old highway route had been changed, the famous B.O.B. (Big Orange Bridge) and a tour of Miller Capilano’s yard facility in Squamish.

The tour concluded with Lions Bay Mayor Brenda Broughton joining us, leaving the final impression of the day the same as the commencement: a fabulous day to work for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure!

A gigantic thank you goes out to everyone involved in making this tour happen, and especially to Miller Capilano for the fantastic “swag bags.” You’ve contributed hugely to my understanding of how interesting and important our work is at the ministry. ✿
Darrell Gunn, New Ops Manager
Submitted by Glenn Olleck, West Kootenay District Manager

Darrell Gunn is transitioning from area manager in Trail, to district operations manager, in Grand Forks. Darrell joined the ministry in 2008, through the Technical Entry Level Program. He brings with him a degree in Environmental Management from Royal Roads University, and a moving box full of enthusiasm. Darrell enjoys skiing and snowboarding in the winter, and hiking and fishing in the summer. He was raised in Winfield, B.C. ♦

Darrell enjoys the West Kootenay summer on Granite Mountain.

Dana Aljanaby: Youth Employment Program, New Westminster
Submitted by Pamela Paul, District Services Manager

Dana Aljanaby graced the New Westminster office as part of the Youth Employment Program this summer, sharing her quick wit and pleasant demeanour.

Dana says her time with the ministry was a great experience. She was busy researching, organizing and compiling information, and arranging for numerous records to be stored off-site. She observed developments in progress and met with the maintenance contractor. She also took part in a tour of the George Massey Tunnel and Barnston Island. These experiences, she says, have given her a good view of the diverse work that the ministry does on a regular basis.

Dana also took on planning our Service Area 6 site visit and golf tournament. (She discovered a natural talent for golf).

Dana has completed three years of general sciences at Kwantlen College, and started attending UBC this fall, to work toward a bachelor of science in forestry. Maybe the provincial government will be welcoming her again in the near future as part of the Ministry of Forests…

Thanks for all your work and sunny smile this summer. It was great having you here! ♦
New EIT in the West Kootenay District
Submitted by Ryan Oakley, District Program Engineer

After a few months of our latest Engineer-in-Training (EIT) being busy with learning, driving and discovering, the West Kootenay District is pleased to welcome John Babineau in print. John is working with Ryan Oakley on his first rotation through the EIT program. John was part of the second graduating class from the School of Engineering at UBC’s Okanagan Campus. As he continues to better understand the ministry and our highways, John hopes to utilize research skills he learned in school. It is a great way to keep fresh ideas and perspectives flowing into our work.

John’s start to the position included bridge inspections on the snooper truck, a helicopter tour of Kootenay Pass and a firsthand look at the Memphis Creek debris flow. John has stayed busy this summer, implementing the speed reader board program throughout the district. With two trailers at his disposal, he has worked with the road area managers to post the boards in as many interested communities as possible. Since July 25, the trailers have been in 16 locations over 14 different municipalities. If anyone has any questions about the speed reader boards, John is more than willing to help out.

As an EIT, John will dive into the decision making that goes on to keep the public safe and mobile. From here, he will also decide which direction he wishes to take, by moving to a new location and a new business unit in the ministry, in about a year’s time. A start in the district office has been an eye-opening experience. The range of issues that come through the district engineer’s door have given John an appreciation for the work that gets done in local communities.

John is very excited about his opportunities and looks forward to working with everyone in the West Kootenay District and beyond.

New Fraser Valley Employee “Gets Hands Dirty”
Submitted by Thomas Chunn, A/District Operations Manager

The Lower Mainland District would like to welcome Kellen Truant as our newest member in the Fraser Valley office, where he recently joined as a District Operations Technician, through the Technical Entry Level Program.

Kellen has spent the past three years in the Lower Mainland after moving from Northern B.C., where he grew up and attended the University of Northern British Columbia, in Prince George. There he completed a bachelor’s degree in geography, where he focused on land processes and geographic information systems. As a student, he had the opportunity to gain valuable highways experience while working with road maintenance crews during the summer months.

Kellen first joined the ministry as an auxiliary operator in the Provincial Highway Conditions Centre. While spending two winter seasons there, he was exposed to a wide range of challenges facing B.C.’s highway systems. This included everything from major highway closures involving avalanches, to farm animals needing to be “shooed” off the road.

In the short time since starting with the Lower Mainland District, Kellen has experienced his own share of excitement, with a major mudslide on the Trans-Canada Highway at Herrling Island, and flooding to contend with in the Hope area. Kellen has certainly gotten his hands dirty with these events and is looking forward to a busy winter season.

Kellen Truant worked with road maintenance crews while obtaining a geography degree at the University of Northern British Columbia.
Saanich Area Office Reborn
Submitted by Kevin House, Area Development and Operations Technician

Like plenty of area offices across the province, Saanich has seen many of our staff recently ride off into retirement. With over a third of our co-workers having retired in the past six months, we are now in the process of a rebirth and would like to welcome two new fresh faces to our family.

Katie Ollmann joined the development approvals team in June as part of this year’s Technical Entry Level Program talent pool. Ryan Evanoff, another relatively new face to the Saanich office, has taken Katie under his wing as her unofficial mentor, and is helping her answer the age-old questions of the job, like “What is eDAS?”

Katie has also been learning the fundamentals of road construction and field work, from seasoned pro Ross Deveau. Since arriving at the Saanich office, Katie has travelled to some of the smaller Gulf Islands, and attended the recent grand opening ceremonies of the restored Kinsol Trestle. Being a recent Ontario transplant, the travel requirements of the job have quickly made her familiar with southern Vancouver Island. Katie is eager to learn every day and is looking forward to a long and rewarding career with the ministry.

We would also like to welcome Rachelle Ray, our new operations technician, who is filling the shoes of recent retiree Larry Griffith. Rachelle is responsible for coordinating the Adopt a Highway program, the service and attraction sign program and all lane closures for Southern Vancouver Island including all related DriveBC postings. And this is all before her second cup of coffee!

An exciting part of Rachelle’s job is going to the scene of motor vehicle accidents, to work with the maintenance contractor and first responders, like the police, to get traffic flowing as quickly as possible. Thankfully though, she hasn’t had to go to too many. Since starting in June, Rachelle has seen the completion of her first major project, an invasive plant removal job that was carried out by the Penelakut First Nation. This project employed a crew of Penelakut band members for almost a month, and was carried out in the Cowichan Valley area on ministry rights of way. Rachelle was happy to be part of a project that had such a positive effect on the community.

On behalf of the Saanich Area Office, welcome to Katie and Rachelle, and here’s to a long and successful career.

Katie Ollmann and Rachelle Ray take in the grand opening of the restored Kinsol Trestle.
Summer Students Shine in the Skeena District
Submitted by Corinne Ellerman, District Clerk

The Skeena District was fortunate to have two new members join our team this summer – Ashley Thandi and Patrick Hemmons, who were hired under the Youth Employment Program.

Ashley is a student at UNBC in Prince George, and Patrick attends UVic in Victoria. Both have roots in Terrace. While they performed some of the customary summer student jobs – doing additional mowing and cleaning up to keep our rest areas, pull-outs and weather stations looking great, the district wanted to make sure Ashley and Patrick got to see the range of programs that make up our ministry. Staff were happy to take the opportunity to show what our ministry and people do every day. As Ashley put it, “It is exciting to be exposed to people who truly love their jobs and are delighted to share their experiences and knowledge with others.”

Staff from all parts of the ministry – district, regional and provincial – jumped in to share their expertise and show how their work keep the ministry’s wheels rolling. From operations to development approvals, Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement to highway design, administration to project management and paving to bridges, everyone came together to make sure the students’ time with us was a great experience.

Patrick observed, “Professionals from a variety of backgrounds, from biology and geography majors, to employees with engineering degrees, come to work at the ministry, attesting to the diversity of work that takes place here.”

Ashley noted, “Going into the program, I had a very vague idea of what some job professions were, but I discovered quickly how diverse and unique the ministry truly is.”

One of the highlights of their summer employment was spending a morning with the bridge inspection crew. Area Manager Bridges and Roads Al McKean, from the Bulkley-Stikine District, arranged for Ashley and Patrick to meet up with Rees Davidson and Kelly McKen who operate the snooper truck. The students got to see the employees and equipment checking over the Williams Creek Bridge on Highway 37, from many viewpoints.

In addition, our students contributed to delivery of the district’s Customer Satisfaction Surveys, by conducting in-person surveys. They also honed their journalistic and filmmaking skills by filming local project work, and interviewing contractors and Ministry Representative Bob Petho for the video presented at the Road Builders Conference (Page 16).

The Skeena staff truly enjoyed having Ashley and Patrick with us for six weeks, and showing the young workers there’s a lot more to the ministry than meets the eye. ♦

Bridge Inspection Operator Kelly McKen in snooper truck bucket, with students Patrick Hemmons with Ashley Thandi.
South Coast Regional Golf Tourney Turns 25
Submitted by South Coast Region Golf Committee

The Annual South Coast Region Golf Tournament hit its 25th anniversary, on Sept. 22.

A total of 30 ministry employees were joined at Pitt Meadows Golf Club, by ministry retirees, and employees from about 25 of our partners in highway construction. Ministry participants used their vacation time to play in the tournament, and network with the contractors and consultants while having fun.

The tournament includes 18 holes of golf, carts, a fabulous barbecued steak dinner and prizes. In the past, we’ve had a prize for every player. The last couple of years we’ve reduced the number of prizes but they’re bigger and better…like a beer fridge, $200 gift card for Whistler Golf Club, a barbecue, two GPS devices and a Wii video game. Contractors and consultants donate prizes as well, and we had about 30 prizes in total this year.

Acting Operations Manager Grant Smith has been in many of the 25 South Coast Region tournaments. He remembers when it cost $12 to play in the tournament. (The cost is $130 now!)

Winning Team (with Minus 7 Par)
Joe Duben, Inprotect Systems
Michael Malchy, Inprotect Systems
J.J. Duben, Inprotect Systems
Bob Hacking, Emil Anderson
Rick Dametto, Emil Anderson

Women’s Longest Drive – Lorna Leslie, Retired

Men’s Longest Drive – Allan Russell, McElhanney

Women’s Closest to the Pin – Joyce Grant, BC MoT

Men’s Closest to the Pin – Eric Paris, Capilano Highway Services

The raffle for golf for four, at Pitt Meadows Golf Club, was won by Fern Bysterveld of CMS Focus. Raffle proceeds of $237 will go to BC Cancer Society. New this year, was a 50/50 draw. Sharon Goddard of Binnie & Associates (and formerly BC MoT) is $340 richer.

The putting contest sponsored by CMS Focus came down to a putt-off, and Jamie Hiebert of Mainroad Pavement Marking was the victor, walking away with a putter and box of golf balls. In memory of Ross Coulter, $342 will go to the Heart and Stoke Foundation. Thank you to CMS Focus for sponsoring the contest again this year.

Many thanks to the organizing team – Jackie Chambers, Susan Keldsen, Clare Lotter, Loretta Carlson, Catherine Grisewood and Dawn Hinze – great job!

Partners in Highways (and Golf)

- Transportation Investment Corporation
- Mainroad Line Painting
- Tetratech
- RF Binnie
- Delcan
- Capilano Highway Services
- Mainroad Contracting
- Hall Constructors
- Telus
- Sealtec
- Custom Blacktop
- Columbia Bithulthic
- BA Blacktop
- Coquitlam Ridge Constructors
- CMS Focus
- DMD
- SNC Lavalin
- Miller Capilano
- McElhanney
- Peter Kiewet & Sons
- AMEC
- Inprotect Systems
- Winvan Paving
- Van Bower Construction Services Ltd.
- Emil Anderson Maintenance Ltd.
SIR Group Celebrate WES Scores
Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

Southern Interior Region’s Corporate Services and Operations unwrapped their Work Environment Survey results, at a working lunch at Paula Cousins’ house, on Oct. 4. We did very well again this year. I love the dynamic group of people I work with. Thanks go to Paula, Brian and Michelle for the food and fun activities.

Corporate Services and Operations: (back row) Brian Jepsen, Paul Riegert, Bonnie Fadden, Art Barry, Dan Bader and Joey Alain; (middle row) Michelle Evans, Cheryl Lawrence, Louise Braybrook, Gail Duffy, Jeanne Reeves and Lorraine Thomas; and (front row) Bonnie Cameron, Terry Rowan, Crystal Chenier, Brad Hogg and Paula Cousins.

DriveBC Mobile – On the Go, In the Know

DriveBC Mobile – www.drivebc.ca/mobile – is now available.
Check DriveBC on your mobile device before you get going, during a rest stop or while you’re pulled over, for:

- Real-time web camera images
- DriveBC map and events list
- Road conditions and incidents by highway number or popular route
- Links to ferries, U.S. border crossing waits and other travel sites

DriveBC information is also available on desktop computer (www.drivebc.ca) or telephone 1-800-550-4997.
A-Team Creates Cookbook for the Community
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Business Services Regional Manager

Each year, the Northern Region’s administrative staff support the Provincial Employee’s Community Services Fund by hosting a variety of fundraising events.

This year, while all the administrative staff (also known as the A-Team) supported the cause, Administrative Assistant Linda-Lee Schell took the lead for our major fundraising event. She solicited co-workers throughout the Northern Region for their favourite recipes and spent endless hours in preparing a prototype for a Northern Region cookbook – Cooking With Highways – Volume 2.

Why Volume 2? In the late 1990s, our office created Volume 1 to raise funds for a good cause – just what that was, nobody recalls for sure. So if it worked once, we thought we’d try it again!

Once our team reviewed and approved the prototype, Linda-Lee spent many hours after work and on weekends producing the cookbooks. The balance of the team supported her by volunteering their time to put the cookbooks together and soliciting sales. The result is a cookbook filled with more than 150 favourite recipes (including photos) from current and past staff.

There are delicacies such as Mike Lorimer’s super fluffy waffles, Cathy Melenka’s cheese ball, Grandma Walting’s hot cross buns (submitted by Denise Brummell), Maria Braden’s strawberry cheesecake supreme, Sacha Antifaef’s engagement chicken, Karen Andrew’s jerk chicken with mango salsa, Tim Woolnough’s spice curry noodle soup with chicken and sweet potatoes, Wendy Herring’s lazy cabbage rolls and Sylvia Patterson’s almond brittle crunch!

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of Cooking with Highways – Volume 2, to support this worthy cause, please contact Linda-Lee Schell at LindaLee.Schell@gov.bc.ca. Cookbooks are $10 each.

I would like to thank Linda-Lee for taking on this significant task and the Northern Region’s administrative team for their continued support, energy and ideas. Another job well done!

Note: With the 2011 PECSF Campaign coming to a close on Nov. 30, proceeds received after that date, will go toward the 2012 campaign.

Mike Lorimer’s Super Fluffy Waffles
Northern Regional Director Mike Lorimer says that he has been making these waffles for his family on Sunday mornings, for the past 20 years.

**INGREDIENTS:**
1 2/3 cup flour
2 eggs
1 tbsp. baking powder
1 3/4 cup milk
2 tbsp. sugar
4 tbsp. melted margarine or butter
Bit o’ salt

**METHOD:**
Mix together the dry ingredients.
Separate the two eggs and add yolks to the dry ingredients.
Beat egg whites in a separate bowl until fluffy.
Add milk to flour mixture and stir. Add melted butter and stir to blend.
Fold in the egg whites just before pouring the batter into the grill.

Note: Serve with syrup and top with whatever delights your heart desires.
Cariboo District Manager Todd Hubner was placed under RCMP arrest, on Sept. 7.

He was apprehended by Williams Lake RCMP in his office, and taken to jail in downtown Williams Lake. In order to secure his release, Todd had to post a minimum $300 bail. The charge was “failure to attend the annual Cariboo District summer campout.”

Todd was able to make several phone calls to raise the bail amount and was freed about two hours later. Fortunately, he was arrested after lunch, as only water was supplied while incarcerated.

The event was part of the local Cops for Cancer fundraiser. Todd actually managed to generate $427 in pledges toward the cause – well over his bail target. He says he certainly knows who his friends are now. Somehow, he even managed to convince his own kids to help get him out. I wonder what promises (or threats) were made there…

Thanks for your support Todd. The total amount raised through the Williams Lake “jail and bail” event exceeded $20,000. A local group of RCMP members and support staff cycled from Fort St. John to Williams Lake, raising almost $40,000. The entire northern region Cops for Cancer cycling team raised more than $220,000 for cancer research.

The Southern Interior Region launched its Provincial Employees Community Services Fund activities with a hot dog sale, last month. A total of $166 was raised.
Helen Evans Joins the Red Hat Club

Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

The big five-O strikes fear into the hearts of many, but not Helen Evans. Bravely venturing into a new decade, Helen Evans joined the “Red Hat Club” when she celebrated her 50th birthday on June 18, in Kelowna. Dressed in a red hat and purple dress, supplied by her colleagues with love and affection, Helen was a great sport.

The Red Hat Club is a nod to a famous poem penned by Jenny Joseph, in 1961. Originally titled “Warning, When I am an Old Woman, I Shall Wear Purple,” the poem has inspired many women to embrace the benefits of growing older – one of which is the freedom to dress however you choose.

Happy Birthday Helen and go out there and wear purple if you want!

A Chief in Officer’s Clothes

CVSE Manager of Vehicle Policies and Programs Jeff Monty dressed up for work recently by adding official officer clothing to his regular “office uniform” of dress shirt and pants. He borrowed Manager of Vehicle Inspection and Standards Brian Kangas’ dress hat and shoulder epaulettes. Judging by Jeff’s smile, he appears to have enjoyed what he calls “a stunt photo.”

What’s that saying…If the hat (or shoe) fits, wear it!

Helen Evans’ colleagues dressed her in purple clothing for her 50th birthday.