Long-time employees Dirk Nyland, Sharlie Huffman and Grant Lachmuth were awarded Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medals for their significant achievements and distinguished public service, by Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Mary Polak, on Feb. 25.

Chief Engineer Dirk Nyland was recognized for leading staffing development while he was regional director in the North, and for instituting project management practices in the northwest, that became standard across the ministry. Further, he has led a number of efforts to improve and streamline engineering services and support succession planning in our ministry. Dirk sits on a number of provincial and national committees and has been with the ministry for more than 30 years.

"It was a great surprise and very special honour to have received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for my service and achievements," says Dirk. "My accomplishments are really the result of a team effort. Thanks to all of you, current and retired, who I have worked with over the years, for allowing me to achieve this honour."

Senior Bridge Engineer Sharlie Huffman has been an advocate in the field of seismic bridge design and structural health monitoring provincially, nationally and internationally. She has also been a professional and technical mentor of numerous engineers in training. Sharlie sits on a number of provincial and
Editor’s Note

Sharon Cowden, Tracy Houser and Stacy Scriver set up Health and Well-Being Fair.

It’s spring – and it shows.

In this issue, you’ll see an explosion of multi-coloured clothing – green dresses, blue tops and pink shirts. There are exotic animals roaming the North Region office – leopards – or at least people dressed in leopard print. Things get kind of creepy-crawly when reading about our ministry’s role in battling invasive alien insects – ravaging fire ants and brown fir long-horned beetles.

We continue our 50th Year celebrations of Road Runner, with a story about how Road Runner has changed with the times, a look at the newsletter’s role, plus an article about how the province’s highway system looked back in 1963.

There’s also coverage of how employees are taking action toward better health, and resources to help you boost your physical, mental and emotional well-being. Spring is the ideal time to shape a healthier, happier you!

Nancy McLeod, Editor

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The Road Runner is an employee newsletter, published four times a year, on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Internet.

We welcome your story submissions. Email your article as a Word document (approx. 500 words maximum) and your high-resolution photographs as JPEGs to: RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca.

In the email for your story, please attach the Word document and graphics (photos, charts, etc.) separately. Please DO NOT embed graphics in the article — this compromises reproduction quality and the images may not be useable by our graphic artist. Photos supplied should be one megabyte.

For contributor guidelines and upcoming deadline, see Road Runner on TRANnet.

Check out the Employee Advisory Forum website for regular updates: www.th.gov.bc.ca/EAF/home_intra.asp.

For @Work – the Public Service Community Website, visit: www.gov.bc.ca.

Graphic design for Road Runner is provided by Kathy Macovichuk.
Queen’s Medals Mark Employee Contributions … Continued from Page 1

national engineering associations and committees and has received awards for her contributions to the engineering profession.

“It felt wonderful to receive the medal and to know that my colleagues had nominated me and felt me worthy of it,” says Sharlie.

Former employee Grant Lachmuth worked for the ministry for more than 35 years, providing skills and expertise in a number of different program areas. He initiated changes to infrastructure to accommodate people with special mobility needs, and managed major projects including the construction of the W.R. Bennett Bridge and the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project. Grant also represented B.C. on assignment with the Israeli National Roads Company, and was a member of the Conference Board of Canada Council for Leadership Insights from 2005 to 2008. He retired from the ministry earlier this year (see Page 34).

“Receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was one of the most special and humbling events in my career, and one that will always remind me of the wonderful people in the ministry that I was so privileged to work with over the years,” says Grant.

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals are awarded to people who have made a significant contribution to a province, territory, region or community in Canada, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada. The medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Queen’s accession to the throne.

B.C. Public Service deputy ministers and agency and organization executives nominated employees for the honour, and 13 provincial government employees were awarded medals through this process. In addition, organizational and community leaders outside of government nominated individuals, including some who were provincial employees who also received the award. *

Minister Mary Polak pins a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal onto Dirk Nyland’s lapel.

The diamond shape and background pattern on the medal commemorates the Queen’s 60 years as monarch.

Lardeau Bluffs Webcam – View to Avalanche Control

Submitted by Kevin Maloney, Avalanche Technician

One of the challenges of managing a regional avalanche program is the scale of the operating area. In the case of the Kootenay program, based in Nelson, 20 distinct avalanche areas are spread over four mountain ranges in the southeast corner of the province. When winter storms affect all avalanche areas at the same time, the challenge is compounded.

Last fall, the Kootenay avalanche program, with assistance from the Provincial Weather Program and the West Kootenay District, undertook a project to reduce the travel required to manage one of the more volatile avalanche areas. Lardeau Bluffs is an extremely steep piece of terrain high above Highway 31, north of Kaslo. Every year, the highway is affected by avalanche activity. A new webcam was installed adjacent to the bluffs, providing avalanche techs with real-time views of the site.

The use of webcams is nothing new, but in this case the type of camera is. The Mobotix© M12 camera can be accessed at any time and has remote control features that allow the user to manipulate the image with pan, tilt and zoom options. There are zoom and wide angle lenses that provide clear views of specific terrain and an overview of the entire area.

There are several benefits to this avalanche cam. The Mobotix camera has sufficient resolution to observe start zone conditions and avalanche activity at the upper elevations of the slope, which is not possible from the highway. It allows for daily observations of freezing levels, precipitation type, wind and sky condition. The ability to observe sky conditions helps with scheduling helicopter access, for either snowpack observations or avalanche control. The fact that the slopes can be

Continued on Page 4…
An Unexpected Internship
Submitted by Alexa Manuel, Aboriginal Youth Intern

Last April, I applied to the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program with the B.C. public service in hopes of obtaining more work experience, while completing the last part of my Bachelor of Arts degree.

I had been aware of the program for a number of years, as I had seen the posters for it in various parts of my school and knew that I was eligible – I am an Aboriginal person residing in British Columbia (from the Syilx, or Okanagan, and St’át’imc tribes of the Southern Interior); I am under the age of 29; and I have completed high school and several years of university.

I initially held off on applying for a few years so I could focus on my schooling, but last year I finally filled out the forms, succeeded in the interviews, and made it into the program. Since then, my life has changed extensively and I could not be happier. The program hired 25 applicants this year, and we were placed in various government ministries across the province. Every year since its start in 2007, a range of ministries apply to host an intern to work in one of their regional offices. They create a list of attributes they would like their intern to have, depending on the task they are to be given, and the intern is assigned to whichever ministry will suit them best (but there is no guarantee of a perfect intern-ministry match).

The Southern Interior Region of the Ministry of Transportation wanted someone with a background in English and communications – lo and behold, I am majoring in English Literature at Thompson Rivers University here in Kamloops! The ministry was a very unexpected choice for me, as I do not even have my driver’s licence, let alone a car – so what could I possibly know about transportation?

I think it was the fact that I knew so little about transportation and infrastructure that really drove me to select this place. I’ve always loved learning new things, and if I were in an environment where everything would be a new experience I knew I would enjoy my work a lot more. And I have enjoyed working here very much. I have assisted with developments in the district’s Business Continuity Plan and in the Internet Project Archiving System (iPAS), and I have done research into media storage practices in our region.

I have been here since September and will remain here until the end of May, and then I will move on to an Aboriginal organization, from June until August. I will have only spent nine months within the ministry, but it is definitely a time I will never forget – I’ve experienced everything from meetings to line painting adventures to a bacon potluck, and shared in lots of laughs with a great office.

I know I have a long (and now well paved!) road ahead of me, but it will be difficult to top the time I had here.

Alexa Manuel (in hardhat) at a freshet repair site, at Two Mile Creek, in September.

Lardeau Bluffs Webcam – View to Avalanche Control

observed remotely means less driving to the area, which in turn decreases fossil fuel emissions.

The avalanche cam project was a combined effort between the Kootenay regional avalanche program, the West Kootenay District, and the Provincial Weather Program. The avalanche crew helped with site selection and installation. The district provided much of the funding for the project. The local road area manager pushed for improved service for highways users and helped with logistics. The environmental electronics technicians provided the camera, and were responsible for the install, technical support and web access.

The webcam for Lardeau Bluffs has been a trial project, to see if this style of camera would be useful for avalanche programs around the province. In the short time that the camera has been in service, it has proved to be a great tool for avalanche forecasting. We can foresee this technology being used by many other avalanche programs.
PHCC to Move, Expand Services and Become RTMC

Submitted by Pooyan Khorsandi, PHCC Manager

Starting in June, the Provincial Highway Conditions Centre (PHCC) team will become the Regional Transportation Management Centre (RTMC) when it moves to the new state-of-the-art Transportation Management Centre in Coquitlam, a stone’s throw away from the new Port Mann Bridge. The new RTMC team will continue providing the same services it has for the past 30 years as the PHCC, while taking on management of transportation information within B.C.’s most populated area – the Lower Mainland.

There is a lot of excitement ahead of the team’s big move, as new RTMC Regional Manager Ashok Bhatti explains, “We will integrate province-wide information with information from the Lower Mainland’s ports, border crossings and major roads network within municipalities, plus Vancouver International Airport. The new RTMC building will come with many advanced tools, and is constructed to withstand a magnitude eight earthquake, making it the central hub for post-disaster management of large-scale events that require multiple agencies.”

Since the mid 1980s, the PHCC has had its fingers on the pulse of the province’s major arteries 24/7/365. Currently located on the third floor of the South Coast Regional Office in Burnaby, the PHCC is responsible for the collection and distribution of B.C. highway information.

The centre receives information from various sources, including maintenance contractors and law enforcement agencies reporting highway conditions and incidents, and then communicates the facts via multiple channels like DriveBC, email and the highway radio system, to people across the province. This contributes to a consistent and safe flow of people, goods and services throughout B.C.’s vast highway system.

The PHCC handles thousands of incoming calls and manages hundreds of major closures and events every year. In addition, it’s responsible for the DriveBC Twitter account, which to date has more than 17,000 followers, and branches into eight DriveBC regional Twitter accounts. It has the critical job every winter, of acting as a lifeline by providing timely safety check-in services to all avalanche technicians working in the back country.

PHCC also controls the network of dynamic message signs throughout the province, which advise the travelling public of road conditions and hazards. These signs play an important role in B.C.’s Amber Alert and tsunami notification programs.

Look for more details and news regarding the RTMC and all the new and exciting changes in upcoming editions of Road Runner.

PHCC Operator Mandeep Chadha managing highways information at the team’s current office.
Oh, How We’ve Changed Over the Years (... and Stayed the Same)
Submitted by Neil Judson, Social Media Writer/Researcher

As country musician Loretta Lynn once sang, we’ve come a long way, baby. And after 50 years, Road Runner is stronger than ever. Not only has the newsletter doubled in size since its first edition in 1963, it’s also publishing more of the stories that matter to us as Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure employees.

So, just how much has Road Runner changed? Well, let us count the ways.

1. It all starts with the cover page

As you can see, the face of Road Runner has gone through a number of makeovers, including title, colour scheme, layout, and the use of that cunning Looney Tunes character as mascot. Notice we included an edition of British Columbia Public Works, which isn’t technically a Road Runner issue, but was published by the Department of Public Works for employees.

2. Social norms of the day

It’s amazing how much a newsletter can reflect the society of the time. The most obvious example of how we’ve changed over the years is women’s participation in the workforce. Men no longer dominate Road Runner pages like they did in the 1960s. Don’t get us started on an article published in the 1937 edition of British Columbia Public Works, entitled “A woman looks for a job,” which describes the perfect female candidate, including height, weight, age, tone of voice... seriously, it goes on. We’ve come a long way, indeed.

We’ve also become less formal, setting aside titles such as “Mr.” and “Miss” and going with friendlier first names.

3. Picture this…

People like visual, and Road Runner today meets this demand by including more photos to help tell stories. That means more smiling faces. The current newsletter also reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of ministry employees and people around the province.

“Photos are a powerful way to tell stories,” says Road Runner Editor Nancy McLeod. “They can entice readers into the story, and for people who don’t have the time to read the story, photos capture its essence in a glance. Employees in action are my favourite shots.”

4. Colour our ministry

The Road Runner you’re holding (or scrolling through digitally) is full colour. But the newsletter went through a number of modifications: from spot colour (ie. orange covers), to plain black and white, before using full colour for the first time in 1999.

5. What’s in a name?

Although the Road Runner name has mostly stayed consistent, there was a period in the 1980s when it was called Road Runner & Carrier. On the other hand, the name of the ministry has gone through a few transformations itself. Scan through editions and you’ll come across these variations in the subheads:

- Department of Highways;
- Ministry of Highways and Public Works;
- Ministry of Transportation, Communications and Highways;
- Ministry of Transportation and Highways, and, of course;
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Road Runner has evolved over five decades. But it has also stayed true to its fundamental standards. While we’re spread out across the province, doing jobs ranging from controlling avalanches and developing policy, to designing highways and bridges, to keeping employees supplied with the tools they need, Road Runner opens our eyes to what makes our colleagues tick.

Road Runner is a way to share our successes, social events and travels. And, perhaps best of all, it has been employee driven for the last decade. It’s written by and for employees. That gives us all a voice. ★
New Quiz Clues for Five Decades of Driving Tunes

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

The “Driving, Roads and Highways Quiz,” from the Feb. 2013 Road Runner, turned out to be a challenging one. So, we’re going to give you one more chance, and a few more hints.

Decipher the clues, to name a selection of songs released from the 1960s to the last decade, that contain the words “driving,” “road” or “highway” (or a version of those words). Make it a team effort with your co-workers, consult with your friends and family members (especially from different generations) and go ahead and use the Internet, if you wish. (It’s not cheating!)

Once you have all the answers, send your entry to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca with “Song Contest” in the subject line, by June 28. A prize draw will be made from all entries which scored 100 per cent. Best yet, the winning team or person’s photo will appear in the next edition of the Road Runner.

1. 1985 tune sung by speaking body parts

2. “Less than a week” song was recorded the same year Road Runner was first published

3. “Road celebrity,” sung by richly-coloured rock band

4. Canadian musician (formerly of Red Rider) sings his philosophy

5. Juno Award-winning singer (scheduled to play in Victoria on June 14) sings about difficult path

6. An employee publication celebrating its 50th anniversary and a speedy critter

7. Number one song on 1980 Hot Country Singles, about commercial vehicle operation, was crooned by rodent-sumamed singer

8. Optimistically-themed hit from 2000, from a group with a demonic name

9. Metal artist who bit a bat has a song with the same title as another in this quiz

10. 1988 song by good junior meat eaters

11. Song title is singular form of group’s name (sung by four famed “outlaw country” artists)

12. Spicy group from Los Angeles sings about travel with two pals

13. High-voltage rock group sings about route to a hot place

14. Song title includes District Manager Bennetto’s given name

15. Canadian singer, age 74, sadly seeks escape in this 1974 song

16. Song about site of illegal activities labelled “power twang”

17. Red-haired Grammy winner with itchy feet sings that she’s not “your little darlin’, sweet coquette”

Want to learn more about new technology and new ways of communicating?

Join Talking TranBC, a private Facebook page for our ministry.

Contact Russel Lolacher for more info:
russel.lolacher@gov.bc.ca
Telling the Ministry’s Story: How Road Runner Brings Us Together
Submitted by Russel Lolacher, Web and Social Media Director

When I first started in the ministry two years ago (wow, that time has flown), Road Runner (and of course its editor, Nancy McLeod) were set to become part of our web and social media team.

What was this magazine? What did it mean to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure? Putting on my “formal/high-level” training hat, I knew it was “a communications publication that allowed staff to share their internal culture, learning and heritage through articles, photos and ‘how tos’.” That’s true, but kind of boring. I was more interested in what Road Runner is to this particular ministry and its people.

So what is Road Runner? I learned that it isn’t so much “what it is” but “what it does.” It’s about:

1) Our History – Looking through 50 years of the publication’s existence is like taking a time machine through our ministry. I’m not just referring to the shaggy sideburns and terrible fashion choices. There is an amazing amount of organizational heritage represented in these pages. It’s also a great “Ministry 101” course for newbies.

2) Our Business – Our ministry is varied, not only separated by geography but also in the work we do. Road Runner gives us an insight into what other departments and branches are doing and how it impacts our own business (or just how cool they are).

3) Our Community – Filled with pictures of fundraising events, friendly competitions and projects underway, Road Runner captures some pretty amazing things from our workplaces all across this big province. Working primarily on the phone or by email, we don’t always get to have that human connection, a face-to-face discussion. Photos in Road Runner allow us to see our colleagues’ smiling faces, and put names to those faces.

After touring headquarters and every district and regional office, delivering social media seminars and HD2012 workshops, I couldn’t believe how different yet similar we all are. Road Runner has been reflecting that and sharing our stories for five decades.

So how has Road Runner survived for so long when publications by other ministries have barely gotten out of the gate? I think you can look at the commitment of our staff. It’s amazing to know some people have worked for this ministry 20, 30, 40 and yes, 50 years. Transportation folk tend to stick around. That’s unheard of anywhere else (private or public sector). So it shouldn’t be too surprising that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is celebrating the 50th year of its employee newsletter.

Our ministry celebrates where we’ve been, where we are and where we’re going; our successes; and our community. Road Runner gives everyone a voice.

And I couldn’t go on without giving big kudos to Editor Nancy McLeod for keeping our tradition alive and well. Great work Nancy.

Thanks also to Kathy Macovichuk whose design keeps Road Runner looking dynamic – just like our ministry.

Happy Birthday, RR.

The Editor’s Note from the first Road Runner, published in November 1963. Its focus remains the same, 50 years later. (Road Runner’s first editor was Merv D. Novak).

The Editor
What’s Flat and Has Pieces for Everyone?
No, Not a Pizza – A Board Game!

Submitted by Richard de Vos, EAF Member

Richard is a member of the EAF’s Team Balancing Act, which focuses on health and well-being. He has found a new, or rather old, way of connecting with friends and family, challenging his mind and stretching his imagination — all important aspects of well-being. He encourages others to set aside their electronic devices for good old-fashioned family game nights.

Since 3,500 BC, board games have been boring us (ha, ha, not really). Most games have jumped into the realm of video gaming but there is still great pleasure to be had sitting around a kitchen table with family or friends and playing an interactive, real time, 3-D, first-person game.

I’ve heard a good idea for managing tech devices (e.g.: cell phones, tablets and electronic devices) at the table, so players can focus on the action and the people with them. Place all the devices on silent mode (not vibrate), put them in a basket, move the basket to another room and share some quality time with your family and friends. Now, granted there may be some tense moments the first few times as children (yes, and adults too) pout and remain silent and non-engaging, but over time everyone will appreciate the quality, distraction-free time spent together. You will even look forward to it!

Richard de Vos and son Elijah (said to be “quite the strategist”) play Settlers of Catan.

Richard’s daughter, Talia, with the Curious George Discovery Beach game, where she shakes a sand-filled game board, then looks for buried items.

With technology flooding our daily lives, it’s easy to forget about good old-fashioned board games. I can remember spending Saturday nights fully absorbed in Monopoly with my parents, or bent on world domination playing Risk with my friends.

I have no television in my home, mostly to encourage my kids to read but now after being without it for more than six years, I’m not sure I’d find time to even watch it. Board games provide quality interactive time with spouses, children and friends…and besides, “retro” is cool.

Classic games for younger people include UNO (a card game), dominos (Mexican train game), Battleship and checkers. Newer games such as: Curious George “Discovery Beach”, Scrabble “alphabet soup”, or “Balloon Lagoon” use different elements to engage children. When playing these games, children learn sharing, patience, co-operation, negotiation, strategy and analytical thinking.

The best part is board games can be played anywhere – no power source needed! Take them camping and use headlamps at night, to add extra fun to the game.

A couple of games that I particularly like are pretty much mainstream now, Carcassonne and Settlers of Catan. These multiplayer board games allow players to be directly involved, even when it’s not their turn. Unlike other games, players can barter, trade and receive commodities, so every roll of the dice can be equally rewarding for everyone. Another great aspect of these games is that the boards are made up of individual tiles, so the game board is rarely ever the same (keeping the games challenging).

On our way to wellness, this is one more way we can create great memories and strengthen family bonds.
Colouring Contest Winners Depict Ministry Goals
Submitted by Lyndsay Molcan, EAF Member

The results are in from the EAF Colouring Contest!

It was a tough decision to make because we received some highly inspired entries. All of the submissions were clearly aligned with at least one ministry goal. The winners for most creative art are:

James Dinney (father Michael Dinney) 0 to five years category

Danielle Lachmuth (father Erik Lachmuth and grandfather Grant Lachmuth) six to 10 years category

Autumn Schley (father Cam Schley) age 11 to 15 category

Their challenge was to express the ministry’s goals:
- Improved infrastructure drives economic growth and trade;
- British Columbia’s transportation industries are globally competitive;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector are reduced;
- British Columbia’s highway system is safe and reliable; and
- Excellent customer service.

The winners will each receive a mini road cone signed by Deputy Minister Grant Main, with a ministry flashlight. Thank you to all the talented young people who participated. ★

Continued on Page 11…

Did You Know?
FACTS ABOUT PAY AND BENEFITS – ACUPUNCTURE
Submitted by Daniela Pricope, EAF Member

Did you know that your extended health plan will reimburse you for acupuncture treatments performed by a medical doctor or an acupuncturist who is registered with the College of Traditional Chinese Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia? The maximum the plan will pay is $200 per individual per calendar year, or up to $500 per family per calendar year. See Page 15 of www2.gov.bc.ca/local/myhr/documents/benefits/benefits_guide_2011.pdf.

Acupuncture is a form of traditional Chinese medicine which has been practiced for at least 2,200 years. It aims to balance the patient’s energy by inserting needles into their skin at key points. Although some people might not believe in the power of acupuncture there are plenty of people benefiting from it. If you are interested in new approaches to your health issues, it is worth checking out this healing technique, like this employee who wishes to remain anonymous did:

“I like to be active and enjoy spending time riding my horses, being outside working on our property or playing with my grandsons. I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia approximately 10 years ago. I had never heard of this affliction previously, and began voraciously studying everything I could on it. I don’t believe in taking prescription medications, so I sought alternative methods to deal with this chronic problem. Acupuncture was and has been a huge help in keeping me active. During particularly bad bouts, I alternate daily visits between acupuncture and massage therapy. It’s kept me mobile and having some coverage for such treatments is a nice perk.” ★
Mary-Ethel Audley – Manager, Property Development and Marketing
Submitted by Jennifer Locke and Karen Andrews, EAF Members

Mary-Ethel Audley is an individual who seeks opportunity and diversity in her career and personal path. She considers herself to be lucky to have had the chance to experience many careers and believes that, “Work is so much easier if you find work that interests you and you keep learning.”

“Any day that I learn something new is a good day for me,” she says.

Mary-Ethel began her career as a police officer with the New Westminster Police Service, as one of the city’s first female patrol officers. Later, she established her own private investigation company. After the arrival of her daughter, Mary-Ethel decided to return to university to obtain a law degree from the University of Victoria. She worked as a clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa for one year, and then articled at a large law firm in Vancouver.

A call from a former law professor led her to apply for a job with the B.C. public service in May 1991. In the Police Services Branch, Ministry of Attorney General, she ran the Police Victim Services Program and chaired the Task Force on Protection of Children from Known Abusers. She went on to work for Treasury Board staff at the Ministry of Finance, before moving to the Ministry of Social Development, where she was director of budgets, and later, director of financial services.

Following a deferred salary leave, and living aboard a canal boat in France, Mary-Ethel moved to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation as a treaty negotiator. She was director of implementation for several years, working with a team to develop plans for implementing tripartite treaties between the provincial government, First Nations and the federal government.

In early 2007, Mary-Ethel joined the ministry’s Transportation Policy Branch, working primarily with CVSE on policy and legislation. When she was asked by her current director to be on a hiring panel for a manager position in the Property and Land Management Branch, she noted that “the work looked so fascinating, that when another position came up I applied.”

Her role as manager of property development and marketing, participating in the management of more than 5,000 properties province wide, has fulfilled her love of learning, experiencing new challenges, problem solving and networking with staff and stakeholders. Mary-Ethel enjoys negotiating complex land deals, the diversity of the different portfolios within the ministry and being part of a team that builds infrastructure so you actually “see your accomplishments and feel like part of the infrastructure.”

Mary-Ethel has been committed to lifelong learning which has contributed to her amazingly diverse career. Her law degree has applied to so many different areas of government and counted as a qualification for her current position, along with her lands experience from treaty negotiations. Mary-Ethel believes her eagerness to learn, network, seek advanced education, find good mentors and listen to them, and her willingness to take on new challenges, has provided her with so many career opportunities.

She herself enjoys mentoring and would be happy to talk to staff about gaining experience for filling similar positions. As an associate professor at Royal Roads University (part-time), where she teaches two on-line courses in the School of Peace and Conflict Resolution, Mary-Ethel continues to pass on her love for learning and mentoring others.

Mary-Ethel’s daughter, Megan, just graduated as a mechanical engineer with a specialty in mechatronics (robotics). Mary-Ethel enjoys walking, horses, dogs, travelling, making stained-glass artwork and painting. In the future she would like to complete a master’s degree in law.

Mary-Ethel Audley’s interest in law and learning has led to an extraordinary range of careers.

Constable Mary (Audley) Kyle, of the New Westminster police, in 1975.
Popular Seven Summits Trails Get More Parking
Submitted by Greg Kinnear, A/Area Manager

Snowshoeing and back-country and cross-country skiing are popular winter activities in the Kootenays. One of the best spots to do this is at Nancy Greene Summit. The 1,575-metre high summit (also known as Strawberry Pass) is on Highway 3B between the city of Rossland and the junction with Highway 3.

Located just 20 kilometres north of Rossland, Nancy Greene Summit offers back-country enthusiasts access to the world-famous 35-kilometre Seven Summits Trail system, numerous kilometres of other trails and more than a dozen huts and cabins. The Seven Summits Trail gained popularity recently, when it was included in British Columbia Magazine’s “50 Things to Do before You Die” list and was rated as the best winter ski trail in the Kootenays.

The area sees a lot of use during the winter months, and up until this fall, lack of parking at the trailhead was an issue. Snow seekers were using the shoulder of Highway 3B to park when the pullout used for parking was full. The need for enhanced parking was identified by the area’s maintenance contractor, Emcon Services Inc., and local ministry staff.

Emcon decided to construct an addition to the parking at the trailhead, as part of its community volunteer project, which doubled the parking area’s size. The enhancement was a notable success this winter, as the number of vehicles impeding plowing along the highway decreased considerably, and with more places to safely park, the trail system saw more visitors.
Change is inevitable. Change is always happening at some level or another – sometimes quickly like an avalanche, or sometimes slowly like a northern winter. One thing for sure, is that change creates something new. To quote an old friend of mine, change is the spice of life!

For three seasons I had worked at Kootenay Pass as an avalanche assistant. Monitoring and documenting change was all part of the job. To work for an avalanche program, you have to be able to embrace change. So when the word got out that the ministry was hiring for the Technician Entry Level Program (TELP) last spring, I jumped at the opportunity to see what changes could happen in my life.

With encouragement from my supervisor and friends, I submitted my application to the TELP program. After a lengthy process, I was successful at being offered an operations technician position with the Bulkley-Stikine District. The change I was seeking was happening. Hearing tales of such mystical places like Bear Pass, the Stikine River, the Nass Valley, and the Spatsizi region to name a few, my fiancé Valerie and I were sold on embracing the change.

Two months of frenzied house renovations and a 1,400-kilometre move from Nelson found us in Smithers, a beautiful town surrounded by amazingly diverse and ever-changing geography. The Bulkley-Stikine District comprises the Lakes District to the south and east, the Coast Mountains to the west and the Cassiar Mountains to the north. The scenery is spectacular, but even more amazing are the people. The area is full of friendly, down-to-earth individuals more than willing to share some Northern hospitality. This was very apparent on my first day of work and I couldn’t ask for a better group of people to call my new team.

Change requires support and communication to make a smooth transition. I could not have asked for anything better than the support I received from the great people I work with. They are all masters of change, learning the ropes through the rapidly evolving northern resource sector and industrial boom. It was no doubt then, that change happened quickly for me. Before I knew it, I was involved with many aspects of daily operations within the district. My work to date has included everything from data system entry and maintenance contractor relations, to minor works contracts and road addition construction projects. The opportunities that have presented themselves have been as wild and diverse as the land and people that surround me. Looking back on the last nine months here, I can honestly say that the change has been great, in both senses of the word “great” – major and wonderful.

As I look forward to the future, I only know one thing for sure, and that is that change is inevitable. I feel fortunate that I am surrounded by such great people in such a wonderful ministry. It is because of this, that change is something I look forward to. I can confidently say that I am excited and ready to embrace more change, no matter how spicy it gets! ★
What a Difference a Half Century Makes – 1963 Map
Submitted by Jason Jackson, Manager Field Services

The 1950s and 1960s was a period of great expansion for B.C.’s transportation system that opened the province up to increased economic development. Many new highways and bridges were built, and existing highways and provincial roads were paved. By the time the first Road Runner was issued in 1963, highway and bridge construction across the province was in full swing.

I thought it would be interesting to take a look back at the 1963 British Columbia Road Map and compare it to the current BC Road Map to see what has been accomplished across the province by the ministry staff over the past half century. A close look at the bottom photo on the cover of the map shows that when the Road Runner was first issued, the centerline paint on the Trans-Canada Highway was white and the edge lines were yellow. (For readers who are not as focussed on highways work as I am, this is reversed today – centerlines are painted yellow, and edge lines on Canadian and U.S. highways are marked in white).

The first thing you notice on the 1963 map are the highways that have just recently opened. Rogers Pass on the Trans-Canada Highway between Revelstoke and Golden opened the year before, in July 1962, replacing the old gravel Big Bend Highway along the Columbia River. That same year, the Deas Tunnel Throughway, from the Oak Street Bridge in Vancouver to the U.S. borders, officially opened along with the new Alexandra Bridge in the Fraser Canyon. On Highway 3, the Blueberry-Paulson Highway from Christina Lake to Castlegar opened in 1962, replacing the old gravel Cascade Route to the West Kootenays through Rossland.

Widespread Construction
The second thing you notice about the 1963 road map are the highways under construction. Although the Second Narrows Bridge (Iron Workers Memorial Bridge) opened in 1960, the 75-kilometre section of the today’s Trans-Canada Highway, from the Burrard Inlet to the Mount Lehman Interchange, is under construction.

Continued on Page 15…
along with the original Port Mann Bridge. In 1963, the Fraser Highway, which connects New Westminster and Surrey via the Pattullo Bridge, was still part of the Trans-Canada Highway as it entered the Vancouver area.

In the Kootenays, the 67-kilometre long Salmo-Creston Skyway is being constructed. It is still the highest elevation arterial highway in Canada, at an altitude of 1,769 metres. Work is also beginning on the Highway 3 Richter Pass between Keremeos and Osoyoos, and will be completed in 1965.

In the north, Highway 16 is under construction, east of Prince George. Further north, what will eventually become Highway 37, is being carved out of the wilderness south of Dease Lake.

**Gravel Roads**

According to the 1963 road map, there are several highways not yet paved. They include Highway 33 from Rutland to near Westbridge; Highway 6 from Cherryville to Nakusp, although a short section east of the Monashee Pass shows as paved; Highway 26 to Barkerville; Highway 20 west to Bella Coola; and Highway 24 all the way from 70 Mile House to Little Fort. In the north, three sections of Highway 16 near Houston, Burns Lake and Terrace are still gravel. Highway 25 to Kitimat (which was later renumbered as part of Highway 37) and what will become Highway 27 to Fort St James, are also gravel.

On Highway 97, the Pine Pass section remains unpaved, as well as the then 20-year-old Alaska Highway and most of the roads in Peace River Country.

**What Is Not There**

Perhaps the most interesting discovery on the map is what is not yet constructed. This includes the Alex Fraser Bridge over the Fraser River. The Coquihalla Highway, Okanagan Connector and Vancouver Island Highway are still years away but several other highways we take for granted are not on the 1963 map. The Sea-to-Sky Highway stops at Squamish. There is no Whistler — not even a road to Pemberton.

In the East Kootenay, there is no Highway 43 and neither Sparwood nor Elkford exist yet. In the West Kootenay, the Strawberry Pass between Rossland and the Nancy Greene Junction and the Bombi Summit between Castlegar and Salmo, don’t exist. At Castlegar, the Brilliant Bridge and connecting roads to the brand new Kinnard Bridge are not finished, which meant you still had to cross the Columbia River on the Robson Ferry to get to Nelson and all points east. Highway 23, from Revelstoke south to the Shelter Bay Ferry and Nakusp, is not constructed but the old road to Arrowhead still exists.

The big piece missing in the south half of the province is Highway 5, from Clearwater to Prince George. North of Clearwater, the road is gravel or dirt, and is closed in winter. There is no pavement west of Jasper, and although there is a proposed route shown on the map, you cannot drive from McBride to Prince George.

In the north, Tumbler Ridge and connecting highways are still years away from construction, and on Vancouver Island, Highway 19 ends at Kelsey Bay and you cannot yet drive north to Port Hardy.

**Trade and Prospecting Trails**

One final note about what is still included on the 1963 road map. If you look closely, you will notice that there are several trails indicated with a dotted line. These are not recreational trails. They are the remnants of old trails used by packers to move around the interior of the province, before the roads were built. In some cases, they date back to the gold rush and fur trade era. As the network of logging roads grew, these trails became obsolete, forgotten, overgrown or perhaps used as snowmobile trails. None of them appear on B.C.’s 2013 road map.

What a difference the ministry’s work has made over the last five decades!
HQ Health and Well-Being Fair
Submitted by Tracy Houser, Strategic HR Acting Assistant Director

What do knitting needles, motorcycles, soccer balls and Reiki have in common?
The folks at headquarters recently discovered that these, among other activities, are taking place in and around our building. Employees are choosing to get involved, to create community, to keep themselves healthy and whole.

On March 26, we held our first Health and Well-Being Fair here at 940 Blanshard Street, in Victoria. The organizers went out of their way to bring together a wide variety of activities and interests, as we realize that being healthy and well is not limited to being skinny and running marathons. The fair was designed to showcase the diversity of existing clubs and activities, and the range that we actively participate in and promote is astonishing (see “Get Connected” at right).

The event incorporated four aspects:
1. Connections to Well-Being – exhibits of wellness activities
2. Biometric clinic – testing to provide personal health metrics
3. What’s Your Type? – Canadian Blood Services blood typing
4. Random Act of Coffee – surprise event (Executive served coffee and snacks)

Get Connected! Here’s How:
Clubs and Activities at HQ

Lunch-Hour Yoga
Nancy McLeod

EAF
Seana van der Valk

TRAN HQ Bike to Work Week
Jessica Ling

Chair Massage Service
Karina Kersten

TRAN Motorcycle Club
Ian Pilkington

Soccer Team
Tyler Thompson

Knitting Club
Leeanne Jones

Gran Fondo Team
Ian Pilkington

Joint Occupational Health and Safety
Claire Ingram and Kirk Rockerbie

Emergency Wardens
Kristen Reimer and Lindsay Stringer

Life Balance
(Noon indoor walking workout videos)
Monique Meek and Jenna Sparks

Reiki
Tammy Donison-McKay

We asked people “What do you do for your health and well-being?” Here’s what they wrote:

- Curling
- Jump Rope
- Power walking on the waterfront
- Kayak sailing
- Golf
- Beating my son at squash
- Dance, dance, dance!
- Walk to work
- Eat a vegan diet
- Meditate
- Riding my bike with my kids
- Walk and walking and walking...
- Family
- Hot yoga
- Hiking
- Dragon boating
- Early morning runs beside the ocean
- Playing soccer with the kids at their soccer practices
- Knitting
- Stay fit
- Yoga
- Gardening – healthy veggies from seed
- Having a healthy work environment that I love to come into every day
- Running
- Cycling
- Volleyball with friends
- A positive attitude + regular exercise + healthy eating
- Preparing nice meals with/for friends and family
- Reduce stress, be active and creative
- Hiking and playing outside with my son
- Walking my dogs
- Yoga @ HQ
- Rock climbing
- Every move is a good move


Continued on Page 17…
The rooms filled up and the buzz of friendly banter brought energy to the gathering. New connections were made as people signed up for the motorcycle club, exchanged knitting patterns, completed another piece in the jigsaw puzzle, spoke with the yoga instructor or even had a free Reiki demo (thanks to Tammy Donison-McKay).

The biometric clinic was the largest Victoria-based clinic to date. The biometrics professionals spent longer at the event than planned, taking measurements and providing wellness advice to 66 employees who stepped up to get their numbers.

What’s Your Type? was also popular, and the Canadian Blood Services staff were pleased that so many of the 40 people who found out their blood type agreed to be contacted about donating in the future. (See Page 33 for an extra way to make your donation count.)

Posters and leaflets displayed a variety of learning opportunities, including courses available through the Learning Centre and support for “Caring for Aging Parents,” “New Parent Resources” and “12 Weeks to Wellness.” Some MyHR courses, designed for supervisors, can be returned to whenever desired, like the Early Intervention and Return to Work eLearning Series.

A few other gems were shared, as informal libraries and lunch-time puzzle fun were revealed. Additional activities came to light such as The Tough Mudder mud-running event, Catan: Explorers and Pirates (off-shoot of the popular Settlers of Catan board game), Spartan Beast and Spartan Sprint obstacle races, a local darts league (www.dartsvictoria.com) and Thetis Lake Open Water Swim for MS (contact Monique Meek).

Special thanks to the leaders of the various clubs and activities who took the time to share their passion at the Connections to Well-Being exhibit. Appreciation also goes to all of the volunteers who created a welcoming and inclusive event. This focus on keeping us healthy and well reminds us that we are part of the “ministry family.”

★

More on Page 18...
Thanks and congratulations to you and all your helpers on putting on such a fun, colourful and healthy event!

- Nancy McLeod

I want to encourage you to have the biometrics clinic again next year. I think it was a great health tool and I know that there are other people in my office who would have liked to participate.

- Ann Griffin

“Thank you to you and your team for organizing such a great event. Love being able to just mingle with ministry staff. Really good for us newbies in the ministry.”

- Debbie Fritz

WOW – we haven’t seen anything like this. We are blown away by the interest, diversity and commitment that we see through this fair today.

- Biometrics Team

The place was packed! HQ employees at the Health and Well-Being Fair.
Biometrics Numbers a Start to Your Good Health
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Business Services Regional Manager

Biometrics (health measurement numbers) can be the start of a healthier life, especially if you enter them into My Good Health. After that, further resources are available on the web-based health tracking tool, if you are ready for change.

Note: You don’t actually need biometric numbers to use and benefit from My Good Health.

My Good Health helps you take control of your health by letting you know what you’re doing well and where you might improve, as well as providing tools to help you make positive health changes. It also might alert you to health issues you may not know about. Some key features include:

- My Health Profile health questionnaire
- Health library that provides information on medications, health products, common conditions and medical tests/procedures
- Interactive tools like headache trackers and health calculators for body mass index, life expectancy and heart attack and stroke risk assessment
- 12 Weeks to Wellness program
- Personalized resources on family health, healthy lifestyles and living with chronic medical conditions
- Directory of support groups for specific health conditions; and
- Personalized monthly email newsletter.

Learn more by watching this video: [www.pac.bluecross.ca/Corp/members/Default.aspx](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca/Corp/members/Default.aspx)

To get started on My Good Health, log onto the CaresNet website (caresnet.pac.bluecross.ca/CARESNet). Enter your Extended Care Group Number (eg. E012345) and ID Number from your Pacific Blue Cross employee benefits card, and a password. Once you’ve entered the site, click the link for My Good Health. The My Health Profile tab at the top of the page will suggest that you take the health assessment. The assessment takes about 20 minutes to complete and here you can enter your biometrics information if you know it. The information that you enter into the assessment is completely confidential and is used to provide suggestions and comments about your health. Once you’ve completed the assessment, you’ll be able to see your digital dashboard, develop an action plan and read information from numerous resources.

Northern Region Holds Biometric Clinic
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Business Services Regional Manager

The Northern Region held a biometric clinic which was attended by 66 provincial government employees, in Prince George, on Jan. 29

Invitations first went out to ministry staff to pre-register, and then the invitation was expanded to include all other ministries in the building. A total of 44 people pre-registered and there were 22 drop-ins.

What is a biometric clinic, you ask? The clinic conducts basic health screening for individuals, in order to provide them with measurements indicative of their health. Participants at the Prince George biometrics clinic underwent:

- Blood pressure testing
- Non-fasting total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and the total cholesterol/HDL cholesterol ratio testing via a blood draw
- Body mass index measurement (height and weight measurement)
- Waist measurement

Each screening station provided context for the individual’s results, and advice on any further actions that would benefit the person’s health. The entire screening process, from intake to completed results and counselling, took about 15 minutes per person.

Participants were required to complete a consent and release form for the screening, then received cards to record their results. The screeners included registered nurses for the blood draw and cholesterol testing, and health care professionals who obtained the other measurements and counselled participants.

Employees were encouraged to take further action on their health by entering the numbers from their biometric screening into their My Health Profile (see article above).

Feedback about the clinic was highly positive and employees from the other ministries are now contemplating scheduling future sessions. Some participants, who had already attended biometric screenings held elsewhere, said getting the numbers became a pivotal point in taking control of their health. The results gave them new motivation to make life-altering changes.

In closing, I wish to encourage you to participate if a clinic is organized in your area. Remember – this may take a little bit of time but you’re worth it!
Kamloops Employees Test Well at Biometric Clinic
Submitted by David Retzer, Project Information Officer

On Jan. 31, a biometric clinic was held at the Kamloops building which houses the Southern Interior Region and Thompson-Nicola District offices. The clinic was run by health professionals who were made available through the BC Public Service Agency, and was free to all employees.

The purpose of the clinic was to give staff a snapshot of their personal health metrics including:
• Blood pressure
• Non-fasting total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and the total cholesterol/HDL cholesterol ratio testing, via a blood draw
• Body mass index measurement (based on height and weight measurement)
• Waist measurement

Each screening station interpreted information on individual results and offered advice on any further action that the participant might want to take. The entire screening process, from intake to completed results and counselling, only took about 15 minutes per person – a good investment of time. The health measurement numbers were provided on a take-home card.

The clinic was well received and fully booked, with a total of 60 people taking advantage of the health scan. Invitations were also sent to other government buildings in the area, and a number of staff, primarily from the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations, attended as well.

The summary report provided after the clinic showed that those tested, as a whole, were healthier than the Canadian average in every risk category! Most notably, none of those tested had blood pressure in the "hypertensive" range.

We’d like to build upon this success by hosting a biometric clinic every year which will motivate employees to improve their health and see the results on a yearly basis. ★

Mountain caribou were photographed by Cliff Razzo around Kootenay Pass summit on March 20, the first day of spring.

"Caution" signs are posted along this seven-kilometre stretch of "Caribou Corridor." With the start of warmer weather it’s a good reminder to watch for wildlife along B.C. Highways.
To learn more, read the TranBC blog: tranbc.ca/2011/05/24/take-care-in-caribou-corridor/

From TranBC’s Flickr site.
James Ferguson – Changes Careers, Pinpoints Progress
Submitted by Jennifer Powers, Area Development and Operations Technician (TELP)

James Ferguson is a development technician at the Chilliwack Area Office which looks after day-to-day development approvals tasks and statistics.

James began his career with the B.C. government in March 2004 as an auxiliary toll clerk at the Coquihalla Toll Plaza. On Sept. 26, 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the end of tolling for the Coquihalla highway and the closure of the toll booths. It was only one month later that the buildings were demolished and James found himself at a crossroads in his career. Thankfully, the full-time employees at the toll booth found positions in other government ministries.

The thought of working for our ministry’s Highways Department intrigued James – more so than moving to another government ministry. So, he dedicated some time to job shadowing in the Burnaby Regional and New Westminster District offices.

On Oct. 31, 2008, James was stationed at the Goat Bluff Slide project on Highway 97. It was here that he first heard of development approvals work and thought he would like to give it a try, as it “sounded interesting”.

He began a development approvals temporary assignment in November 2008, at the Chilliwack office. It was immediately clear that James was a great fit. In January of the following year, he became a full-time employee at the office and began extensive training with the Corporate Highway Resource Information System. He is now the office expert!

In 2011, James won the competition on a Science and Technical Officer 21 position as a district technician in the Chilliwack office. Since then, he has developed a system which tracks the records of various development applications throughout the Lower Mainland. This system has quickly evolved to encompass development approvals data for every office in the province. It totals the number of subdivision, special events, approvals and permit applications for any given time period. With this system we are now able to see how each office fares, but more importantly, we can determine the progression of development in all areas of our province. Way to go James!

James is a valued employee of the Chilliwack office, whose versatility and ingenuity has extended beyond the Lower Mainland District.

James lives in Hope with his wife of 26 years, Patti, his two dogs, Lily and Scruffy and his crazy cat Cuddles. ★

One of James’ statistical models: a pie chart showing the total provincial applications per office between Jan. 1 and March 8.
Crystal Chenier is the kind of person every organization and every newsletter needs. She’s got unlimited passion for making light-hearted and worthwhile things happen at and outside work, and she loves to report on them. I’ve always been able to count on Crystal’s stories and photos from when she’s brought co-workers together — sometimes for plain old fun — but very often to support a worthy cause at the same time. There’s been the Chili Bowl Auction and Cook-Off, Bowling for Kids (Big Brother Big Sisters) and the Big Bike Ride for Heart and Stroke, just to name a few. Plus she’s the organizing powerhouse behind Halloween and other seasonal festivities and special days, and she submits the information and photos to prove it.

From her location at the Kamloops office housing the Southern Interior Region and Thompson Nicola District, Crystal has been Road Runner’s most active contributor throughout my five years as editor and likely for many years previously.

On June 20, Crystal will be retiring, after 37 years of service with the ministry. Based on her average submission of 13 to 15 items a year, which she began two decades ago, Crystal may have contributed up to 300 articles during her career!

“I like the glory — I like to see my picture in paper and to show people what we’re doing here,” says Crystal. She says always been a big fan of the Road Runner. “It’s good information and a chance to relax a little bit while catching up on what other people are up to around the province.”

The latest social event Crystal is organizing is her own retirement party. I ask her if she plans to wear something from her collection of 30 costumes that she shares with her co-workers. She says she’ll dress more formally for her big goodbye. She hints, however, that she’ll have a few surprises in her bag.

Best wishes Crystal — Road Runner and I will miss you!
Skeena District’s Usk Reaction Ferry Turns the Big 1-0-0
Submitted by Randy Penner, Operations Manager

About 20 kilometres east of Terrace on Highway 16, is the historic community of Usk, (pronounced “tusk” without the “t”) with its landmark Usk Pioneer Chapel (a small-scale replica of the old Marsh Memorial Chapel) and a handful of houses on each side of the Skeena River. Alongside the highway is the Usk reaction ferry, celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

The history of the Usk ferry is charted in the booklet Lake and River Ferries, by Frank A. Clapp, published by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways in 1991:

"Before the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and because no roads or trails existed in the lower Skeena River valley, practically all travel to the Interior was by steam-powered stern-wheelers and before that, by canoe. Completion of the railway between Prince Rupert and Hazelton brought an end to transportation on the river. The stern-wheeler INLANDER made the last trip during the summer of 1912.

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Check out the new 50th Anniversary Website Page for Road Runner!

Dressing Green on St. Patrick’s Day
Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

The Southern Interior Region and Thompson Nicola District dressed green for St Patrick’s Day, in the Kamloops office, on March 14.
Emergency One-Stop Shop – the New IRM Website
Submitted by Russel Lolacher, Web and Social Media Director

“The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has long been known as the ‘can do’ ministry. Deputy Minister Grant Main observed at a recent Road Builders conference that the first thing he noticed in coming to this ministry was that the staff ‘still bleed orange and white.’ This cultural ‘can do’ attitude continues to be the single greatest strength of this ministry.”


Last year, a working group identified areas where the ministry “can do” a bit more to be prepared for emergency response. One of those key areas was to create a dynamic, living website that would not only be useful, but actually used.

Enter the Incident Response Management (IRM) website. This site is a single point of access for ministry staff, maintenance contractors and provincial emergency responders to locate current policies and procedures supporting incident response for provincial transportation infrastructure. It’s a one-stop shop for all things emergency response.

What will you find on the new IRM website?

• A breakdown of the five categories of emergency response, including descriptions and examples: site specific, major, provincial non-acute, business continuity and provincial acute.

• Core documents: Provincial Incident Response Guidelines, Messaging Protocol, best practices, Inter-Agency Motor Vehicle Incident Response Strategic Protocol, Traffic Management Guidelines, Emergency Management BC’s All Hazard Plan...it’s all in here to provide you with the information you need when you need it. This helps make sure that we are all using the same language to communicate in an emergency situation.

• Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) documents: Get access to guidelines, manuals, activity checklists, best practices, expenditure tracking sheets and more. This all really helps answer the “who is paying and how are we/they paying for this?” question.

• Communications: You’ll find contact lists for highway maintenance contractors, districts and Emergency Management BC, the always useful Radio Call Book and videos on the Provincial Incident Response and Travel Advisory Message Protocol. You’ll also have access to our monthly and seasonal newsletters to keep you in the know on the latest developments around IRM.

• District Response Plans: Different districts have potentially different emergency response scenarios. Supported by recent training of regional staff and maintenance contractors lead by Trent Folk, Michelle Evans and Patricia Wong, each district has prepared their own district response.

• Seasonal Info: Spring is here and the IRM website has an excellent inventory of documents for you to review before the water starts to rise. Freshet and flood conditions can present any number of hazards, from road washouts and undercut banks, to structural failures and contamination. In the course of our work we may be responding to flood-damaged areas, however, the first line of defense is to avoid putting ourselves and other workers into hazardous or life-threatening situations. Staying safe is always our number one priority, so please review the “Working Around Water” document and the newly updated BC Flood Response Plan on the IRM website. You can find it in the reference section, under Operations.

That’s a lot of good stuff. While the IRM website is home to all of these emergency documents and more, it is important to note that the website was not built for emergency use on scene but rather as a resource or IRM “home base”. We are currently working on producing an “On Scene” app which will allow first responders to report incident details directly from the site, so that critical information flows as quickly as possible for emergency communication. The IRM website serves to educate staff and contractors on requirements before and after an emergency situation, not as a real-time emergency response tool.

The slogan “know before you go” doesn’t just apply to travelling and DriveBC. It’s also a great reminder for ourselves to be as prepared as possible when responding to emergencies and managing incidents.

The IRM website supports emergency management by ministry staff, maintenance contractors and provincial responders.
TELPP Graduation Event Held in Nelson

Hugh Eberle, District Operations Manager

Well, it was laughs all around as we held our first semi-formal Technical Entry Level Program graduation ceremonies in Nelson, on March 14.

Greg Kinnear and Katie Ward joined the ministry back in the summer of 2011 and the West Kootenay District had to mark their graduation in style. Of course, this meant they had to dress the part, and district staff kindly offered our creative services to help with that.

The dress consisted of a genuine mortar board cap and tassel – made with the finest construction paper, glue and string that money can buy. The academic dress or gown was finely sewn at 600 stitches per inch (Unfortunately, the new grads were quickly stripped of their gowns, as the black plastic table clothes were needed for the luncheon later.) The certificates presented were encased in a bathroom roll with yellow caution tape attached.

Rounding out the gala event were their graduation gifts. Greg walked away with a slightly used and faded 1980s Saskatchewan Roughriders hat to help him reminisce about the good old days, while Katie sported a beautiful, leather LaFarge hat to help remind her of the leather travel bag she never received. Both hats were symbolic of the “future being so bright that they have to wear hats.”

All laughs aside, Greg and Katie are truly amazing individuals and we are extremely fortunate to be able to work with them here in the West Kootenay District. Feel free to send them a note of congratulations.

A CORRECTION AND AN INVITATION

The February 2013 Road Runner omitted crediting Anthea Lewis for her excellent photo of CVSE officers at an officer appreciation lunch, at All Saints Anglican Church in Agassiz. The article also said the CN Police attended the event, when it was the CP police who were there.

All Saints Anglican has held the appreciation event for the last few years. Volunteer Leroy Burden said he’s impressed with how Cindy Hogg and her CVSE colleagues protect the community, and come out to the event. He also graciously invited Road Runner’s editor to attend the next event, scheduled for Oct. 27.

2013/14 MyPerformance Deadline is Approaching

A series of new MyPerformance Guides, chock-full of valuable information and tips, is now available on MyHR to help you develop and work with your annual performance and development plan, including:

Pink Shirt Day came up rosy for the ministry on Feb. 27, as employees wore pink to raise awareness about the need to stop bullying at schools, home, work and online.

There were all shades of pink – from barely a blush of the hue, to deep purplish tones. Pink accessories included pink hair, headscarves, pom-pom scarves and piggy caps. Pink could be found in tie dye, stripes, animal print, floral and geometric patterns.

The ministry’s social media TranBC logo also went blush for the day and information about employee support for Pink Shirt Day was posted on Storify.

Lower Mainland District: (back row) Roanna Cruz, Brian Atkins and David Holloway; (front row) Thomas Chhun, Loretta Carlson, Tricia Klein and Jackie Chambers.

Okanagan Shuswap: Robyn Clifford, Vicki Martin, Audrie Henry, Lynda Lochhead, Angela Vavra, Helen Evans and Blaine Garrison.

Rocky Mountain District: Darin Welch, Melissa Wiekenkamp, Leslie Elder, Deb Wright, Stephanie Daniels, Janine Muri and Robyn Devlin.


Putting their best pink foot (and shirts) forward, was a large group from the Southern Interior Region and Thompson Nicola District offices.

Thompson Nicola District: (back row) Kim Brown and Wendy Cumming; (front row) Tina Kulchyski, Amanda Aldrich, Megan Cullinane, Joan Brickwood, Nicole Hansen and Tracy LeClair.
The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) has taken decisive action in confronting its first terrestrial invasive alien animal species infestation, since expanding its mandate from invasive alien plants.

The European fire ant (Myrmica rubra) swarms and attacks aggressively if disturbed – each ant stinging the victim multiple times. Severe allergic reactions in humans can occur, while smaller creatures such as young birds are potentially at risk of stings and possible death. The ants build their nests in the soil of lawns and garden beds (although not as obvious mounds) under rocks and logs, and in decaying wood, as well around the foundations for cold-frames and small greenhouses.

Dr. Robert Higgins of Thompson Rivers University, one of only three entomologists in Canada specializing in identifying different species of ants, confirmed the species from samples sent from North Vancouver in 2010. Since then, infestations are confirmed in Victoria, Richmond, Vancouver, Burnaby, North Vancouver, Maple Ridge and Chilliwack. The first introduction of European fire ants to North America was more than 100 years ago in Maine, U.S., and established populations are now in Washington State and Eastern Canada in addition to the Eastern U.S.

In 2012, the IMISWG gave Dr. Higgins funding to better understand the distribution of this ant in southern B.C. as well as to provide recommendations for effective control. Previous to this funded research, no survey to confirm the extent of this species’ establishment in B.C. had been done. Initial infestation detections were based on reports and samples from local governments and residents contacting Dr. Higgins.

As with any invasive species, it is a priority to map the known and the potential population distributions. This has now been done for the province. Some confirmed populations were found to be well established, suggesting years of colonization. One area of concern is a colony adjacent to a Canadian Wildlife bird breeding area where hatchlings might be easy victims for these insects that travel along soil and trees. A positive aspect of the survey work this summer was the ability to recognize the threat to a major park in North Vancouver which had fire ant colonies poised to invade from the park’s boundary. Immediate action was taken to destroy these encroaching nests.

The presence of this stinging ant can have negative impacts including a decrease in the value of infested properties, unmarketable container/nursery stock and costs for control and inspections. The ant also has the potential to impact agricultural crops and may displace native ants in their natural environment.

Recognizing the hazard to people, their children and pets, as well as other urban inhabitants, the IMISWG sponsored a planning session for local governments in June 2012 which, “...involved learning about the biology and distribution of M. rubra, as well as current control methods. The planning session initiated a Joint Action Plan for communication between key stakeholders to address the growing public and biological concern about fire ants.”

This session was followed by a collaborative open workshop for governments, leaders and communities of affected or threatened regions, in November 2012. The goal of the workshop was to share and discuss the progress already made and to determine the next actions to be taken.

In addition, IMISWG, in cooperation with Dr. Higgins and the Invasive Species Council of BC, launched a website to provide information to the public: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/fire_ants.htm.

IMISWG is currently looking to fund Dr Higgins’ ongoing research on bait formulations, as well as more detailed mapping and natural history

Continued on Page 28...
Quick Action Saves B.C. from Invasive Species Infestation

Submitted by Crystal Wheeler, Environmental Roadside Manager

The brown fir long-horned beetle, a wood-boring invasive insect, could pose a risk to B.C. cedars.

Thanks to the quick actions of the BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB), the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG), and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a possible infestation of an invasive species into our province was halted.

When staff at a BC Liquor Store opened their box of Christmas decorations imported from China, live and dead insects were discovered among the natural logs and pine cones. The conscientious staff, recognizing the potential threat, reported the issue to an LDB director. After contacting the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, the director was put in touch with the IMISWG (of which our ministry is a member) and through the working group’s contacts, the CFIA was made aware of the situation.

Within an hour of contacting the IMISWG, the director had recommendations for containing the insects until a proper identification could be done. Within 24 hours, a Notice of Quarantine was issued by CFIA and a “Store Operation’s Alert for Immediate Action” was sent to all BC Liquor Stores advising that “All stores must take down the relevant display material, put in boxes sealed with tape, put the boxes in garbage bags and hold the materials in the store warehouse."

Meanwhile, the insects were identified as brown fir long-horned beetle (Callidiellum villosulum), a wood-boring alien invasive whose partiality for redwoods could be a potential risk to B.C. cedars. Because this beetle is considered a species of possible concern, CFIA ordered the decorations removed from the stores and destroyed.

Fortunately, CFIA has the ability to track shipments and they found that 759 cartons were distributed to 195 signature liquor stores in the province, and followed up with every store. Even though the shipment did have fumigation and phytosanitary certificates, vigilance was still needed!

Thanks to the due diligence of government staff, B.C. was once again protected from an alien species invasion! ★

IMISWG: Has the European Fire Ant Finally Met Its Match? … Continued from Page 28

collection of the species and its colonies, to determine the effectiveness of early detection and rapid response efforts in B.C. 12

IMISWG’s hope is to provide local governments, and ultimately residents, with an effective, inexpensive and safe-to-use control for B.C.’s latest known invasive alien species, the European fire ant. ★

For more information, please view IMISWG website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species


5 Hueppelsheuser 2012

6 Ditto

7 Ditto

8 Higgins 2012

9 Higgins 2012


Fire ants swarm and attack an earthworm; each ant can sting multiple times.
Transit Branch Still Recovering from Monday Wardrobe Shocker
Submitted by Kevin Volk, Senior Manager, Transit Projects

Greg Humphrey’s claims of “not getting the memo” rang hollow in HQ’s Transit Branch last Monday, as staff were shocked to see Mr. Humphrey wearing a white shirt on what was clearly Blue Shirt Monday. Mr. Humphrey, originally from Burns Lake, is the branch’s manager of transit program monitoring.

Please note that the Transit Branch’s Blue Shirt Monday, has no connection with the Blue Shirt Monday, which raises awareness of cyber bullying the first Monday of October. “Blue Shirt Monday happened by accident the first time, when everyone unexpectedly turned up at work wearing blue shirts,” explained Capital Program Analyst Sherry Barnes. “It’s been a fun weekly tradition in the Transit Branch ever since.”

“I don’t know how Greg will get any transit program monitoring done today,” declared the Branch’s Levi Timmermans. “Can that type of highly skilled work be done while not wearing a blue shirt?”

“It makes me wonder if he’s reading the other memos we send him,” said co-worker Ed Storm. “Some of those memos are even more important, like Green Tie Wednesday!”

Other branch staff were also at a loss to understand Mr. Humphrey’s actions.

“He claims that every store in the city is sold out of blue shirts,” stated Research Officer Peter Murray. “I find it even harder to believe that the whole Internet is sold out as well...”

“Maybe Greg worked Sunday, which would make Sunday his Monday, and Monday is actually his Tuesday, but then why is he wearing socks on No Socks Tuesday?” wondered colleague Kevin Volk.

“He’s a trendsetter, always has been,” admitted Branch Administrator Sheila Smith. “He was the first person here to stop wearing a top hat on Top Hat Thursday, and now we’ve all followed his lead!”

Thankfully, the one memo Mr. Humphrey did read was the one requiring people caught wearing non-blue shirts to serve the rest of the branch on Doughnut Monday. This new weekly tradition will replace Transit Karaoke Friday. The eardrums of the nearby Finance Department have Mr. Humphrey to thank for this positive development.
Leaping into Leopard Print Thursday
Submitted by Deanna Ramsey, Regional Financial Officer

You may not expect to see leopards in Northern B.C., but on Thursdays you’ll spot their likeness roaming the Northern Region’s Corporate and Operational Services section, in Prince George.

It’s a weekly tradition that started with Mary Laing, our contract administrator who loves leopard print. She wears leopard print as much as possible, and one day she suggested that our entire group wear some kind of animal print on Thursdays of every week.

The tradition caught on, and we have been doing this for years, which has been a great deal of fun for our group. Some other employees also dress for the occasion or at least comment on it. We even have men from our section who participate. Way to go Denzil and Ryan!

Mary Laing once took her love of leopard print to the extreme, and wrapped her foot cast in it and wore that to work.★

Denzil Amor and Ryan Todd have joined the pack in their animal print duds.

It’s a jungle on Thursdays: Crystal MacLean, Maria Braden, Denzil Amor and Mary Laing.

Mary Laing, leader of the leopard tradition, sported the print on her foot cast.

Looking good in leopard: Ryan Todd, Deanna Ramsey, Nicole Folk and Sarah Clark.

Denzil Amor and Ryan Todd have joined the pack in their animal print duds.
Bowling for Kids Brings Provincial Employees Together
Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary


The Bowling for Kids event, to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters, brought together 25 people from the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; and ServiceBC.

Highest Score: 199 – Perry Lynn, ServiceBC
Second Highest Score: 188 – Maurice Le Francois and Ken Aura, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Third Highest Score: 178 – Tom Freeman, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Lowest Score: 73 – Emily (daughter of Paul Riegert, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)

Thanks to everyone that made this day special, and especially to all the people that pledged for us!

Bowlers from the ministry and other provincial agencies in Kamloops raised money while wearing zany headgear.
Be Counted at the Public Service Blood Challenge
Submitted by Catherine J. Sloot, Partnership Specialist, Canadian Blood Services

The 10th Annual BC Public Service Blood Donor Challenge is set to launch next month. Are you ready? No need for any special training, clothing, footwear, or club fees…all you have to do is share your vitality and give the gift of life.

For the past ten years, public servants across B.C. have celebrated Public Service Week by kicking off the annual BC Public Service Blood Donor Challenge. This challenge encourages employees as well as their families and friends to celebrate life and donate blood.

In 2012, federal participants emerged victorious, ending the BC Public Service’s eight-year reign. Here’s the count:

- Federal participants – 702
- Provincial participants – 539 (including 12 from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)
- Municipal participants – 514

Total – 1,755 public service employees

This year’s competition runs June 10 to Aug. 31. Let’s pull together and make the challenge even better. We need your support to help us meet the constant need for blood. Your donation can help save lives.

Accident victims, surgical patients, people with anemia, shock and burn victims all need blood to survive. It often takes blood from more than one generous donor to save a life. Someone undergoing treatment for cancer, for example, may require blood and blood products from up to five donors a week; that’s why we are asking you to rally and make a difference to those in need.

Let’s get some groups together from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to make a substantial showing in this year’s Public Service Challenge, and more importantly, to support patients in B.C. hospitals who depend on us.

Shery Owen organizes a donation group in HQ, and can answer questions from beyond HQ about the Partners for Life donation program. Shery can be reached at (250) 387-7767.

You can also call 1 888 2DONATE or go on line at www.blood.ca to book your individual life-saving appointment.

When you visit Canadian Blood Services to donate, be sure to tell them you’re with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, so you’re counted as a provincial government employee! ★

CVSE Honours Veterans at Remembrance Day Ceremony
Submitted by Lori Alexander, Commercial Transport Inspector

When asked if they would lay a wreath on behalf of Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) at the 2012 Remembrance Day ceremony at Riverside Park in Kamloops, Commercial Transport Inspectors Andrew Fisher and David Wright accepted the honour without hesitation. Lead by Carrier Safety Inspector George Brown, a group of CVSE officers attended the ceremony to pay tribute to the men and women who fought for — and in many cases died for — the freedoms cherished by all today.

This was the fourth Remembrance Day ceremony the Kamloops CVSE officers participated in, and without a doubt the coldest. Despite the blowing snow and below zero temperatures, a record number of community members turned out to pay tribute and remember. The ceremony was highlighted with a fly-over by 419 Squadron from Cold Lake, Alberta, and a parade through the downtown city streets.

I had the opportunity to speak with many of the ministry staff that I saw there. Each one expressed to me how moving it was to see the small group of Second World War veterans assembled in front of the cenotaph. Everyone seemed unaffected by the cold weather, perhaps too lost in memories to notice. I look forward to attending the ceremony again this year and encourage all of you to participate in your community’s Remembrance Day celebrations. ★
On Jan. 12, friends and colleagues gathered for a surprise retirement celebration in Kelowna for Grant Lachmuth, project director, highway maintenance renewal. Amazingly, we managed to keep it a surprise almost to the day of the event – which was a difficult job as the man of the hour seemed to always be skulking around whenever we tried to discuss the plans!

Planning shenanigans started well before the big day. For many years, Grant has had a mascot hanging from his coat rack. Miguel the Monkey has faithfully followed him around the province during Grant’s 35-year career with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. It was decided that Miguel should travel the province and visit all his and Grant’s colleagues and offices that they had worked at ... a nostalgia tour if you will. Miguel had such a fabulous time that every week, he sent Grant a letter with pictures of his adventures! Grant sorely missed his little buddy and enjoyed Miguel’s stories – Miguel even managed a trip to Hawaii, a trip that made Grant a little envious! Miguel made a grand entrance at Grant’s party arriving in his very own orange and white vehicle with a cigar in one hand and a bottle of Scotch in the other! It was a tearful reunion!

Through Grant’s career, he held many positions with the ministry: lab tech; terrain analyst; aggregate prospector; concrete bridge designer; landslide analyst; roadway design tech; area manager (roads); A/ regional operations tech; district highways manager (four different districts); provincial sealcoat operations; A/regional director; ministry representative on W.R. Bennett Bridge; A/regional executive director (ILMB); director of strategic initiatives; team leader at B.C. Canada Pavilion (Beijing 2008 Olympic Games); senior project director, Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project; project director, Okanagan and, project director, maintenance contract renewal initiative. He also represented B.C. on assignment with the Israeli National Roads Company.

While working throughout the province, Grant completed his long distance learning early on and graduated from the BC Institute of Technology. He has been a member of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Association of B.C. for more than 25 years. He graduated from the Royal Roads University Executive Leadership program in 2007 and sat as a member of the Council for Leadership Insights with the Conference Board of Canada. He was also the recipient of several Deputy Minister awards and on a team which received a Premier’s Award. Grant was recently honoured with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for providing his skills and expertise to a number of different program areas.

There was a line-up of people wanting to present Grant with tokens of thanks and appreciation for his time with the ministry and the impact he had. Adrian Vander Velden, provincial approving officer in the Fort George District and long-time friend of Grant and his wife Beth, presented Grant with a brass dumpy level with an engraved plaque that read:

“Grant Lachmuth – Esteemed leader, inspiring mentor and good friend above all else. Your legacy will endure in the hearts of all you touched.”

Among the presenters were Al Fraser of Argo Road Maintenance, Stan Warkentin, Tammy Kuffner, Ross McLean and Lynda Lochhead. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Grant’s awesome wife, Beth, for putting up with him and following him around the province – as you can imagine, it was a big bouquet!

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Hard-working Joan Harder Retires
Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

After 30 years of service, District Clerk Joanne Harder has decided to say “adios” to the ministry and “hola” to retirement life!

Joanne, one of Thompson Nicola’s long-time district clerks, began her illustrious career with the provincial government in 1982, as an office assistant with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, as it was known back in the day.

Joanne has always been a dependable, honest, hard-working, compassionate co-worker. Joanne’s willingness and flexibility to take on any task asked of her was so very much appreciated. She’s an easy-going, fun-loving person, but I have the benefit of calling her my friend. We’ve been through a lot together in both our working lives in the ministry and our personal lives. Her co-workers and I will miss her companionship, smiling face and sense of humor.

Joanne has been a member of the BCGEU executive for many years and has held various positions. She and her husband, Neil Campbell, have enjoyed many travels to Mexico over the years as they are the lucky owners of a time-share condo in Puerto Vallarta. If you know Joanne, you already know that she is always up for an adventure and leads a very active life. Some of her activities include fitness classes, cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, as well as scrapbooking numerous photos of her many travels. She is also an avid reader and cook.

Joanne has been married to Neil for 32 years. She has two children who reside on Vancouver Island; her son Real who is 41 and daughter, Nicole, 39.

She also has three stepsons; Jerry, Grant, and Don, who live on the Island and Lower Mainland. Most importantly, she is the very proud grandmother of four grandsons and two step-granddaughters.

Anchors Aweigh, Captain Cohiba! ... Continued from Page 34

A surprise presenter was former Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Kevin Falcon. He gave Grant a signed picture of the new W.R. Bennett Bridge.

Grant’s wife Beth, their son Erik and daughter Rachel enacted an intervention and pleaded with Grant to amend his infamous Scotch and cigar habits! A brave attempt but, judging by Grant’s continued purchases, Grant has not amended his ways!!

It was a great evening of laughter, reliving past memories and events, renewed friendships and a lot of love for the man of the hour!

Best wishes in all your future endeavors and adventures in both your family life and any other work projects that you take on, Grant! We will miss your smiling face and wicked sense of humour!