Public Service Week 2013 – Celebrating You, Us and Our Work

Submitted by Nick Nixon, HR Planner, Internal Communications

At the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, we are lucky enough to work with an amazing group of highly motivated and passionate people that bring a wealth of experience to their roles. Public Service Week gives us the opportunity to come together as an organization and celebrate what we do and the people we work together with, and rely on, every day.

This year’s special week sported the corporate theme “Proudly Serving British Columbians”, reflecting the effort we all put in to provide the citizens of B.C. with valuable programs and services. Ministry events took place across the province from June 10 to 14; food was eaten, laughs were shared and great conversations were plentiful.

Transportation Policy and Programs ADM Jacquie Dawes and Manager of Finance and Administrative Services Sharon Cowden have a laugh over some candy floss.
Darwin Tyacke and Emily Thomas focus on moving cookies into their mouths, without their hands.

Sometimes it’s easy to predict who will be bold and try something new.

However, during Public Service Week, you never know who will show up with a cookie on their face or their arms tangled playfully in a pair of pantyhose, as you’ll see from the carnival coverage in this issue. New groove was also part of the annual celebration, as employees danced in a flash mob, on Victoria’s legislative assembly lawn.

And speaking of musical, word is that a certain district manager from around Vancouver has taken up the guitar revolutionized the work we do, and may perhaps even be aspiring to glory. He’s gotten some good coaching with the Road Runner’s 50th anniversary celebration articles – where some tools of the ministry's trade have found out about how all of the old and others have changed little. You’ll also find out about how all of the old Road Runners became newly posted on the Internet.

Contrasts of new and old continue with the Road Runner’s 50th anniversary celebration articles – where some tools of the ministry’s trade have revolutionized the work we do, and others have changed little. You’ll also find out about how all of the old Road Runners became newly posted on the Internet.

Take a look!

Nancy McLeod, Editor
For this year’s Public Service Week (PSW) at HQ, a talented and dedicated committee of staff (with representatives from each department) came together to plan a diverse line-up of activities. The committee wanted to ensure there was something for everyone (mostly during the lunch hour) to attend: donations to important causes (Giving Back), fun and games (Carnival), frozen treats for the sweet-tooth (Sweet Escapes), exercise and activity (Cross-Fit), recognition (Compliment Tree) and opportunities to mix and mingle (Random Acts of Coffee).

To wrap-up the details of the creative ways our ministry chose to celebrate, I asked a few of the people responsible for leading the events.

**Kyla Kelch: Giving Back**
"The idea was to collect clothing and house wares for local charities. We collected 10 bags for Women in Need – they were so thankful when they came and picked those donations up. PSW was great to be a part of; the events are fun to put on, and the reward is a whole lot of smiles."

**Beverly van Druten-Blais: Carnival**
"I believe more people need to feel fun in their lives. This provided the opportunity for people to take some time out of their busy day and have some fun. Our group of carnival volunteers took their event booth space to a fantastic and imaginative level. What will stick out in my mind when I look back at PSW and the carnival? Seeing people open up, embrace our fantastic culture and participate."

**Yvonne Peters: Sweet Escapes**
"Who doesn’t love ice cream, right? One of my favourite moments was after the event. The other organizers and I were packing up when we looked around the room and noticed there were still people there! Talking, laughing, visiting…it was so great."

**April Paxton: Beginners Cross-Fit**
"At one point, the instructors set up a bunch of cones, then divided us into two groups. One group ran around knocking cones down in sequence, while the other picked up after them as fast as they could... we all laughed so hard, I’ll never forget that. PSW is an amazing opportunity for us to honour what we do."

**Sheila Smith: Compliment Tree**
"The Compliment Tree has been around since 2010, and the yearly growth is amazing. This year we delivered more than 600 leaves! Every day I would bring more and more leaves to each floor; it may have been a lot of work, but it was well worth it. I really think that it’s so popular because people just want the opportunity to say “thank you” to their colleagues."

To see our ministry’s compliment trees featured on @Work (the B.C. public service employee website) click: gww.gov.bc.ca/news/2013/0717/compliment-tree-perennial-favourite

*Continued on Page 4...*
Stacy Scriver: Random Acts of Coffee

“The interaction between staff and Executive was so great – we probably had 150 to 175 people attend. That was my favourite part – seeing the people coming out to the event from different areas of the building; talking, laughing... just having fun. Some people never get that opportunity to interact with their colleagues and Executive.”

Beverly van Druten-Blais organized and dressed for the carnival.

Gypsy April Paxton lures people to fun and games.

The compliment tree on the fifth floor of HQ sprouted new leaves daily.


Carol Magee concentrates on threading pasta.

Gary Farnden and wife Sylvia-Anne try to retrieve pennies from the toe of the pantyhose using only their fingers in each leg.
Cariboo District Plants Trees for Public Service Week
Submitted by Katherine Styba, District Program Manager; Leeah Tappert, District Operations Technician; and Hilary Barnett, Assistant Area Manager

We always strive at the Cariboo District to incorporate some service, fun and food into our Public Service Week, and this year’s celebration was another great one. Usually, we try to set up events near our three main offices: 100 Mile House, Williams Lake and Quesnel.

The Williams Lake area had absolutely perfect weather, and on June 13, ministry employees there geared up and headed down to Scout Island Nature Centre, to help plant trees. Over two hours, employees planted upwards of 20 well-established trees behind Bare’s Autobody, where a new trail is being developed for nature lovers. With some hard work, laughter, shovels, lots of dirt and fertilizer, the work proved to be fun and quick! Scout Island Coordinator Sue Hemphill was incredibly grateful to the employees that came out to help.

Following this, we had a barbeque at the local park. Big thanks go to Russ Roberts for volunteering as the grill master. We also had lawn games aplenty such as croquet and washu (a bean bag toss game). Katherine Styba was the winner of the croquet match and Mikayla Arkesteyn and Isher Lehal tied in the washu match.

The 100 Mile area staff, alongside employees from BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLRNO), spent a day tree planting at Edgehills Provincial Park, just outside of Clinton. This area was severely impacted by the Kelly Lake Fire of 2009 and has shown signs of slope instability and erosion issues. Prestige Guitars generously donated more than 1,000 tree seedlings and the public service employees worked together to help regenerate these slopes with a combination of pine and fir. We had a lot of fun and topped it all off with a tailgate barbecue lunch. Big thanks to all the employees and Prestige Guitars for making our Public Service Week one to remember!

Unfortunately, the celebration we had planned in Quesnel got rained out. The plan to revitalize our picnic areas and two Quesnel area rest stops has been rescheduled, and Cariboo District staffers are looking forward to the event. ★
This year’s Public Service Week was special for employees with the South Coast Regional Office, Lower Mainland Office, Passenger Transportation Branch and Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement because for the first time, they were all in the same building for the festivities – the Regional Transportation Management Centre, in Coquitlam.

The theme for Public Service Week this year was “Proudly Serving British Columbians: Celebrating You, Us, and Our Work”. We incorporated this theme into our festivities for the annual event by organizing a 50/50 draw and putting out some food hampers. Part of the proceeds from the 50/50 draw, and all of the food that was collected, were given to a local charity called Share. By the end of the week, we donated 27 kilograms of food and $93.

We kicked off the week with a homemade waffle breakfast which was cooked by the Regional Management Team in the third floor lunch room, on June 10. The chefs included Brian Atkins, John Schnablegger, Ashok Bhatti, Derek Drummond, Lina Halwani, Chantelle Gergley, David Mintak, Chris Lee and Renee Mounteney. It was arguable who made the best waffles, but it seems as though they were thoroughly enjoyed by all of the staff!

The next day, we launched the Compliment Tree. This recurring event was brought back for Public Service Week because of the overwhelming positivity it generated. For the official launch, staff congregated in the lunchroom to begin writing their words of praise, gratitude and commendation for our coworkers. The two trees stayed up for the entire week to ensure that everyone had time to write down their thoughts on paper leaves, and hang up their words of appreciation. By the end of the week, the two trees were loaded with leaves!

Games and a barbeque were served up mid-week, with teams assembled from a mix of staff from the various work units. The Red Barons, Woolridge Wranglers, Stellar Jays, Hard Hats and Cone Heads competed for the coveted title of champion. After facing off in a series of events, including an intense watermelon eating contest, the Cone Heads came out as the victors! To fuel the teams and the spectators, we had a barbeque feast complete with all the fixings. (This event seemed to be the highlight of everyone’s Public Service Week).

On Thursday, we had a service pin ceremony for staff receiving their 5, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35-year pins. We enjoyed some light refreshments, while congratulating the recipients.

The week concluded with an ice cream break on the afternoon of June 14. The weather didn’t permit us to enjoy our frozen treats overlooking Highway 1 from the patio, so we settled for the third floor lunchroom which ended up being just as enjoyable.

Public Service Week was a fun-filled time that allowed us to celebrate our roles as public servants. We thank everyone who attended and look forward to another exciting week next year! ★

Saluting the Ultimate Cone Heads in Coquitlam
Submitted by Christie Atkins, Co-op Student
For more than a decade now, B.C. public service employees have gathered within the Rocky Mountain District to show their pride in area communities, for Public Service Week.

This year in Cranbrook, staff converged on the local Northstar Rails to Trails network that connects the communities of Kimberley and Cranbrook, via a 26-kilometre paved trail that was once the old rail bed. Local residents were delighted during their morning bike, walk and run to witness more than 50 government employees cut down weeds, fill in washout areas, clear away fallen trees and create pullouts at information kiosks along the trail.

It was an opportunity for staff to get out in the fresh air and participate in activities that they have never experienced before – like Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Bobby Chahal who managed the super weed-eater, “The Bulldog”!

Bobby learned why it is important to wear steel toe boots when operating heavy machinery! Many of you will recognize Senior Area Vehicle Inspector Ernie Krause (a member of the Employee Advisory Forum), pictured here manhandling a log, like only a true lumberjack from the Rockies can!

Naturally, after several hours of physical labour (which is always a challenge for those of us who spend the majority of our lives behind a computer) a hearty shared meal was in order. Thanks to staff at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), we enjoyed a feast befitting a king! Once the after-eating coma began to wear off, we were ready to redeem ourselves from last year’s slow pitch game gone bad. (No need to rehash the specifics of last year – best to only look forward). In true form, our staff came to the plate ready for action against FLNRO, with a “We can do it” attitude!

Moving quickly before the skies opened up on us, we managed to hold a steady lead until the last inning – where apparently we fell behind by two points! This is still waiting for the final ruling but being the good sports that we are, we handed the trophy back to FLNRO for the second year. I think it is important to note that we had several inexperienced players and one that believed it impossible to hit a sound ball with a round bat – nothing like cricket, apparently!

Big thanks to Development Approvals Technician Darin Welch, District Clerk Janine Muri and Area Manager Bridges Rob Kaleka, for all their efforts in organizing another successful Public Service Week event. ★
High-Visibility Employees Join PSW Flash Mob
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Seven ministry employees joined the Public Service Week Flash Mob to dance up a storm, in front of the provincial Legislative Assembly, in Victoria, June 11.

They expressed their passion for serving British Columbians by performing choreographed moves to “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough”. Tania Betiku from our ministry’s Strategic Human Resources Branch and Pia Enrique from the Ministry of Social Development led the group.

Six employees from headquarters added extra flash, by dressing in reflective gear and hard hats. Tara Breysen from the Saanich District showed up unexpectedly (and unaware of the group’s costume), but performed admirably without safety vest and hard hat. Co-workers also came to watch and cheer for the group.

More than 100 B.C. public service employees participated in the musical celebration which drew admiration and even participation from tourists and passersby. See their performance on the @Work website: gww.gov.bc.ca/news/2013/0624/cross-ministry-mob-ledge-lawn ★

In their reflective gear, employees lent extra flash to the Public Service Week Flash Mob: Tammy Donison-McKay, Tania Betiku, Heather Weir, Tara Breysen, Vina Sianen, Tracy Houser and Beverly van Druten-Blais.

Strumming in Sechelt
Submitted by Brett Wildeman, Area Development and Operations Technician

As part of the Lower Mainland District’s Public Service Week events, District Manager Brian Atkins and A/Operations Manager Graeme Schimpf visited district staff at the Sechelt Office.

Brian has been working on his guitar playing since the spring, and he decided to bring along his six-string to Sechelt. I gave Brian some pointers for learning the guitar. Who says you cannot teach a dog old tricks?
Northern Region Celebrates PSW with Safari and Service Pins
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Regional Manager, Business Services

Once again, the Northern Region celebrated Public Service Week with flair! Here is a chronicle of events.

**Monday, June 10** – Public Service Week was kicked off in the regional office with coffee, conversation and the option of filling out a leaf or two for the Compliment Tree.

Although specific participant numbers are not known, we’re sure it was well attended because the goodies piled high on the plate vanished!

**Tuesday, June 11** – In recognition of Public Service Week, the Regional Management Team hosted a Pancake Breakfast for staff and a fun quiz, “Guess the number of squares”. Fourteen people participated in the quiz, with 10 identifying the correct number of squares. Overall, 30 staff attended and enjoyed the culinary skills of the following Regional Management Team members: Kirsten Pedersen, regional director; Bill Eisbrenner, regional manager, Engineering; Maria Braden, regional manager, Corporate and Operational Services; Greg Woollacott, regional manager, Planning and Partnerships; and myself – Lenora Fillion, regional manager, Business Services.

The menu included organic pancakes with fresh blueberries prepared by Greg Woollacott and Lenora Fillion. Various sizes were prepared to tempt an array of appetites. There were Tiny Tim pancakes – which were toonie sized for those that had small appetites or were watching their calorie intake, super-sized pancakes for those that were hungry and medium-sized pancakes for those that just came to eat.

In Maria and Kirsten’s corner, Maria dressed in her chef’s hat, apron scripted with “Bon appétit” and white gloves to bring an air of French cuisine. Bill Eisbrenner, colour-coordinated in navy pants, shirt and apron, blended well with the blueberry pancakes he created. To round out the menu, there was fresh fruit and juice for all to enjoy. Special thanks to my team for shopping, food preparations and room set-up and clean-up. A big thank you goes to Judy Gunderson (retired but still so supportive), for bringing in grills and staying behind to help us with clean-up.

**Wednesday, June 12** – Another potluck luncheon – another success! To thank staff for participating, two gifts were donated and names drawn from participants. Brent Case won a fold up lawn chair and Hilda McNeil won a glass decanter.

**Photo Safari** – For the cost of $5 per person, participants were given 24 photos from around the building to identify. There were 12 participants and the winner was Shelley Ruiz of Geotech. Congratulations Shelley! She even remembered the poster of the “creepy baby” (Clue #19, which was for a play that ended Saturday). It was removed before the contest started! Shelley won $30. The balance, plus a donation of $5, went toward our “Toonie” drive for two schools in need of support, for a total donation of $35. Thanks to everyone who participated. Special thanks to Colleen Davis for organizing this Public Service Week event!

**Crib Tournament** – The tournament, an annual event in the region, had 12 individuals participate at a cost of $5 each. Games were held during coffee and lunch hours over a three-day period. The winner this year was Steve Burke who won $30 and kindly contributed $10 toward the “Toonie” drive. Maria Braden has bragging rights for being the first loser, and Lenora Fillion has bragging rights for coming in third. Special thanks to Linda-Lee Schell and Colleen Davis for coordinating this event.

The Compliment Tree sprouted an amazing 222 recognition leaves.

Continued on Page 10...
Thursday, June 13 – Service Pin Presentations – In the afternoon, Northern Regional Office staff gathered to celebrate the milestone service of their co-workers. The following employees received pins:

5 years – Melanie Robbestad, John Van Geloven, James Lee, Darren Vagt, Colleen Davis, Kathryn Graham and Raylene Otto

10 years – James Luo

15 years – Gord Hunter

30 years – Lenora Fillion

Congratulations to all recipients! Hilda McNeill, thank you for organizing the pins and getting a cake. Thanks to the Fort George District office for providing the ice cream treats!

Compliment Tree – An amazing 222 leaves adorned our Compliment Tree in the regional office. This extraordinary effort reinforces our appreciation of each other.

Beyond the Week (June 3 to 14) – Toonie Drive – This collection led to a total of $400 being raised! Each of the two schools will receive $200. Thanks to Hilda McNeill for leading this great initiative, and a heartfelt thank you to all that contributed to this worthwhile cause. The generosity of our staff is truly amazing!

★


Crib Tournament players Mary Laing and Linda-Lee Schell.

Cake for service pin presentations.
Paula Cousins Keeps Crown at PSW Barbecue
Submitted by Crystal Chenier, Secretary

The Public Service Week barbecue at the Southern Interior and Thompson Nicola offices in Kamloops was loads of fun, with contests, crazy hats and tasty food. The watermelon eating contest winner was Paula Cousins, who held onto her title from last year. Terry Rowan won the 50-50 draw and received $50 – half of the prize pot. The remaining $50 was split between the local food bank and the New Life Mission.

Watermelon eating contestants Greg Lowes, Paula Cousins (champion) and Crystal Chenier are cheered by Jeanne Reeves and others.

Wearing fun hats: (back row) Grant Irvine and Shirley Fisher; (front row) Kathy Strobbe and Crystal Chenier.

Frank Dacho and Mike Lorimer serve up burgers and dogs.
Solutions Sought for Challenging 35 Mile Avalanche Path
Submitted by Steve Brushey, Snow Avalanche Technician, 35 Mile Project Manager

On Highway 16, 56.4 kilometres west of Terrace, lies 35 Mile avalanche path – the most challenging of 44 avalanche paths which affect travel between Terrace and Prince Rupert.

It’s small, unassuming and easy to miss – unlike the many larger avalanche paths above this stretch of Highway 16. To most people, 35 Mile path does not even appear to be an avalanche path; it’s only 400 metres high, with no visible tracks and typical vegetation damage.

What drivers do notice is how narrow Highway 16 is at that spot, squeezed between the CN rail line on one side and a solid wall of granite on the other; there is no room for a ditch on either side of the road. It’s from the towering rock wall that both snow avalanches and icefall occur that affect the highway.

As the seasons transition into winter, 35 Mile becomes a major challenge to the Northwest Avalanche Program and the local maintenance contractor. Removing snow and ice that come down the avalanche path is difficult on the narrow, constricted road. Over the years, there have been several avalanche and icefall incidents. In 2011, a Greyhound bus was hit by falling ice, and then rear ended by another vehicle, with both impacts resulting in injuries.

As inconspicuous as 35 Mile avalanche path can be, it’s responsible for about 80 per cent of closure time on Highway 16 between Terrace and Prince Rupert. Put another way, mitigating the avalanche problem at 35 Mile increases highway reliability by up to 80 per cent in the winter.

The good news is that recently Snow Avalanche Headquarters in Victoria, and the Skeena District office in Terrace, funded a study to recommend a design for snow and icefall fencing at 35 Mile. In early May, the Northwest Avalanche Program constructed a helicopter pad for access to the avalanche start zones at 35 Mile. In conjunction with the geotech group from the ministry’s Northern Region Office, Thurber Engineering was hired to map the rock and recommend locations for fencing anchors, and Dynamic Avalanche Consulting developed fencing plans to mitigate the snow and icefall.

The preliminary report has been completed and trial fencing will go up early this fall. The Northwest Avalanche Program is pleased with this project, as it goes a long way to increasing safety for the travelling public, the maintenance contractor and our avalanche control team members.

Secondary to this, will be increased reliability for all transportation stakeholders along the Skeena River corridor.

With rail traffic to the Port of Prince Rupert expected to almost triple to 36 to 40 trains a day (from the current 12 to 16 trains); and highway traffic expected to increase over the next few years, successful completion of the 35 Mile avalanche control project will be that much more critical to transportation between Prince Rupert and Terrace.
Great news...the new ferry under construction for Upper Arrow Lake is on schedule, on budget and expected to be in service for the May 2014 long weekend.

As mentioned in the February 2013 Road Runner, this $26.5-million vessel is going to replace two very old vessels, helping to ease the long lineups of people travelling to the beautiful Kootenays.

Maryse Langevin from the Marine Branch is the ministry’s project lead. The project team has done an exceptional job in managing the project and obtaining treasury board and capital board support and approvals.

Callum Campbell, from naval architect firm Capilano Maritime Design, developed the vessel specifications. Claire Ingram, from the Procurement Branch, joined the team to ensure successful completion of procurement for the new vessel, which is now being constructed by Waterbridge Steel.

Waterbridge Steel, owned and operated by John Harding since 1978, has built more than seven of these ferries. John actually built the largest freight-carrying ice-breaker in the world, which still operates up north at Williston Lake.

On July 28, the vessel’s hull was launched onto Arrow Lake. If you are interested in watching the ferry’s construction, log onto: waterbridgesteel.com/newferry.html where you can follow its progress.

This vessel is an important part of the transportation system connecting highways, and moving people and goods through the Kootenays. ★
This is part two of a series by Field Services to mark Road Runner’s 50th anniversary, celebrate the achievements of past and present employees and look back at how the provincial government’s highway system and road building practices have evolved from the early 1960s.

A few weeks ago, I dropped in at the Nelson office to meet with the West Kootenay Paving Crew and was amazed to see a 1960s vintage land survey instrument set up on a vintage tripod, in Ministry Representative Rob Ostrikoff’s office.

It had been many years since I had seen one of these old dumpy levels anywhere, and they starkly contrast with the new state-of-the-art GPS measuring equipment currently used by the ministry. The obvious question to Rob was where he found this beautiful old survey level, and I was told the following story.

In around 1993, one of the true characters in the ministry retired after 35 years of service. Ken Towel was a geotech guy from the beginning to end of his career. In the early 1960s, at the start of his career, they sent him from Victoria to Nelson in a ministry Volkswagen lab van, and he became the Kootenay Region Geotech Branch. Sadly, Ken passed away in early 2001, leaving behind his wife Elaine. Everyone in Nelson knew Elaine because she worked for the City of Nelson and was the person you dealt with when you had to pay your water bill, city taxes or parking tickets.

In the spring, Rob received a call from Elaine and she told him that she was moving to the Okanagan. There was a bunch of Ken’s “highways stuff” in the basement including lots of old work photos that she just couldn’t take with her. Rob was intrigued, so he went over to take a look. Among the interesting old photos and the other “highways stuff” was a beautiful lacquered wood box containing the polished brass dumpy level. In a corner of the basement, he found the original tripod stand.

Where and when Ken got the dumpy level it is a matter of conjecture. Often these old instruments were polished and presented to ministry staff upon retirement.

This old survey instrument got me thinking about how much technology has changed our surveying abilities, over the past 50 years. Dumpy levels were invented back in the 1830s and versions of this venerable survey instrument have been used to construct canals, railroads and roads for well over a century. The instrument is quite simple. It’s just a good telescope attached to a good bubble level that rotates 360 degrees. If you have ever looked through one, you quickly realize that although

Continued on Page 15...
the optics are excellent, the view appears upside down!

Back in the 1960s, construction surveying with this kind of level required two people, good math and notetaking skills, time and patience to process the data. To record the exact location, the surveyor looked through the level, while the survey assistant stood on the spot being measured.

Things have continually changed for our construction survey crews over the years but the acquisition of new survey technology is another leap forward. The new Trimble S6 Robotic instrument only requires one person. The operator can point and shoot at anything up to 500 metres away, and a pulse laser will record the exact bearing, distance and elevation almost instantly.

Field Services began using this equipment at the Summerland slide on Hwy 97, about four years ago, to measure dangerous rock faces. Its grading crews are now fortunate to have these devices along with new global navigation satellite system receivers. The Trimble roving satellite receivers use the constellation of U.S. and Russian GPS satellites to determine exactly where in the world (to the millimetre) the user is standing. The Trimble S6 Robotic can link into the satellite without having to rely on a ground survey marker.

What all this technology means is that instead of having a survey crew of up to seven people surveying, processing data and hammering stakes into the ground to lay out a project, a single surveyor can manage the work. Nowadays, automated machine control systems on construction equipment like bulldozers, graders and excavators, have GPS receivers installed onto them. This allows project design data to be loaded right onto the equipment on site. When contractors use this technology, there is no longer a need for staking the layout of a project. The grader’s automated system will even adjust the grader blade to do the job to design specifications! Ultimately, this improves construction efficiency while reducing the safety risk of surveyors working in and around heavy equipment.

Survey technology has evolved considerably over the last half century, and new advancements are continually being developed. Still, nothing they make now is as pretty as that old dumpy level that Rob found in Ken’s basement. ★
Kootenay Pass Celebrates 50th Year (Ahead of Road Runner)
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Kootenay Pass will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year, just ahead of the Road Runner. The pass along Highway 3 (a section referred to then as the Creston-Salmo cut-off) was opened on Oct. 13, 1963.

Area Manager Cliff Razzo provided Road Runner with a scanned article from the Creston Review, dated Oct. 10, 1963, which he obtained from the Creston Museum. The article predicted crowds of up to 4,000 for the opening event, and attendance by dignitaries whose involvement with the stretch of highway dated back to a 1952 jeep trek along the prospective route. The article also said that Greyhound was scheduled to make its first trip over the pass on Oct. 28.

Ministry offices reported being flooded with calls from Alberta and other prairie provinces, from people wanting to confirm that the route would be open, so they could travel it on the Thanksgiving Day long weekend. The article features a prominent photo of then Highways Minister P.A. Gagliardi, who a month later, launched the first issue of Road Runner.

Kootenay Pass, at 1,774 metres in elevation, is Canada’s highest section of highway to stay open year-round. ★

The Creston Review trumpets the much-anticipated opening of Highway 3 through the Kootenay Pass.

We’re looking for stories and photos for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Road Runner

Please email them to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca
Avalanche Deposit Removal 40 Years Ago

Kootenay Pass Area Manager Cliff Razzo found these photos in a shoe box at the West Kootenay District office, in Nelson, and scanned them at home. He then spoke with John Tweedy, retired avalanche technician who worked at Kootenay Pass for more than 30 years, who believes the photos are circa 1970s.

Cliff also talked to two road maintenance employees with Yellowhead Road and Bridge who started out on Kootenay Pass in the late 1970s. They said they fondly remember the loader and snow blower in the photos. The equipment is not much different than the larger loaders and snow blowers used today on Kootenay Pass, but the maintenance folks told Cliff the newer models are “nicer to operate.”

Kootenay Pass will celebrate its 50th anniversary, on Oct. 13. It was opened on Oct. 13, 1963, just ahead of the first edition of Road Runner. (See Page 16) ★

Technology Highlight from the 60s

The early editions of the Road Runner often feature machinery and highlights from times further past. Here’s a March 1964 article about an employee-designed piece of equipment. The first sentence refers to Stephenson’s Rocket, an early steam locomotive built in 1829, in England, which was the basis for most steam engines for the next 150 years. The photo on the left appears to be vintage, however the man’s beard is bogus and the wheeled device, invented by a ministry employee, was actually used in the 60s ★

Stevenson’s Rocket? Well, not really, but nevertheless as useful to our maintenance crew today as the “rocket” was to the travelling pioneers of yesterday. The machine is a combination portable tar kettle and crack filler — TKCF for short. The unit was designed by our Senior Road Maintenance Foreman, Harold Kelly, and built by the Pouce Coupe Shop Crew. The crack filling material is placed inside the compartment with the smokestack on top and is heated by propane. The propane tank (not shown) sits on the front of the unit. There are two such units being used in this district. The “bearded” gentleman in the picture is Harry Konopata, a truck driver in this district.
The EAF: Five Teams Working for You

The Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) is made up of five teams. Each of these teams has a different purpose, stemming from the five EAF goals, to reach the unified vision “... to be the best place to work in government. Our work is by employees, for employees.”

1. To improve the quality of recognition and raise awareness of current employee benefits. (Team Appreciation)
2. To support and promote work/life balance and a healthy lifestyle. (Balancing Act)
3. To raise awareness of professional development opportunities. (Road to Opportunity)
4. To help empower employees and enable positive change. (TRANSformers)
5. To foster a better understanding and connection among employees with ministry executive and the ministry’s vision, mission and goals. (Walk the Talk)

Each article in this EAF section of the Road Runner, written by a member of the EAF, has a direct connection to a team goal.

Putting Together the EAF Puzzle

Submitted by James Penner, EAF Member

The EAF’s Team Balancing Act has been puzzling over how to promote engagement and healthy workplace practices, and they’ve pieced together some fun.

They’ve created a series of puzzles that employees can work on with each other (or alone) during their breaks. Puzzles challenge people’s cognitive, visual and collaborative skills, memory retention and perseverance. However, the biggest benefit is the opportunity for employees to get away from their desks during their breaks, while spending time with co-workers to accomplish a goal.

Once each puzzle is complete, the people who worked on it record their names and how long it took them to solve the puzzle, and send that information along with a photo of the completed puzzle to MoT.EAF@gov.bc.ca. Then, they take the puzzle apart and ship it to the next office listed inside the box lid, for employees there to reconstruct.

There are six puzzles in circulation (some are 500 pieces and some 1,000 pieces). The transportation themed images include:

- Rogers Pass in the 1960s
- A port
- An engineering launch truss drawing, and
- The covers of the first three editions of Road Runner, to celebrate the newsletter’s 50th anniversary.

Complete the picture: Cruising Rogers Pass in the early 60s, just after it opened.
Road Builders Soccer Team Nets Fun and Friendship
Submitted by Tyler Thompson, EAF Member

Tyler is a member of the EAF’s Team Balancing Act, which focuses on supporting and promoting work/life balance and a healthy lifestyle.

If you live in Victoria and have either wanted to learn how to play soccer or to join a team, but didn’t want to deal with the competitiveness of the winter leagues, then the BC Government Employees Co-ed Soccer Society (BCGECSS) is the league for you! The BCGECCS is a co-ed summer recreational soccer league focussed on having fun and staying active. It is open to all ages, all fitness levels and all experience levels – from beginners to seasoned players.

Starting a New Team
I recently discovered this league after moving to Victoria. When I moved, I didn’t know anyone so I began searching for soccer teams to join. Joining a sports team or club is definitely one of many great ways to get out, stay active and meet new people.

I had not heard of this league until speaking to someone at lunch one day. My first thought was to register as an individual and join an existing team. But after discussing the idea and sharing this interest with several colleagues, I figured it might be worthwhile to start up a new team so we could all play together.

Taking on the challenge, I started a team for our ministry, the Road Builders. The first step was recruiting players and this presented a great opportunity to meet people around the office who I probably wouldn’t usually interact with. After one week of recruiting within headquarters, I had 15 players from all branches of the ministry including engineers, engineers in training; business, financial and policy analysts; business and project managers, and even an assistant deputy minister! Within two weeks, through word of mouth and further recruiting, I had 26 players including employees of the Vancouver Island Health Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Office of the Ombudsman, and six people working outside government.

The Road Builders is a diverse team of players of various ages, fitness levels and experience. A few have never played before.

League Details
There are 20 registered teams in this league which have players from all levels of government, government agencies and crown corporations. Non-government players are allowed, as long as the majority of the team is from government.

The summer season runs from late April until early August, with a year-end tournament in mid-August. The games are held on either grass or turf fields, on Tuesday or Thursday nights (depending on the week), usually with a 6:30 p.m. kick-off.

Fostering Fun
To foster the feeling of fun on the field, scoring records are not kept by the league. Instead, after each game the opposing teams rate each other based on the spirit of the game, and vote for the female and male player that best combines sportsmanship and skill. At the end of the season, there is a trophy given to the friendliest team and

Continued on Page 20...
Did You Know?

FACTS ABOUT PAY AND BENEFITS – JURY DUTY LEAVE

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, on behalf of the eAF

Jury duty is something a lot of people dread, and agonize about avoiding. But when I read my B.C. Supreme Court summons printed on bright yellow paper, I was thrilled that I was required to report for jury selection on May 27.

I saw it as my civic duty to go through the process, and if chosen, to sit on a jury. I used to work for my father, who was a lawyer, and I had always thought that being a juror would be fascinating. Listening, solemn-faced, to mounds of miniscule evidence isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, but I knew it would be mine.

If I was among the 12 people chosen, the trial would start immediately, and was expected to last four weeks. Plus, there would be more time required for deliberation (when the jury is shut away to discuss and reach a verdict). Although this could be a big chunk out of my working hours, I learned I would receive my regular paycheque, due to the Leave to Attend Legal Hearings available to B.C. public service employees:

Employees who have been called to serve as a juror or witness in court are able to take leave with pay. (However, if an employee’s private affairs are the reason for their need to appear in court, only leave without pay is granted.) Employees are also able to take one day off with pay in order to appear in court for a hearing for their child. The time off work must be taken on the day that the hearing occurs.

I was concerned about being away from work for more than a month – especially with my extra activities as editor during Road Runner’s 50th anniversary – but I was happy that I wouldn’t suffer financially.

As it turned out, I did get selected, and I served as a juror for a total of six days. Then, the defendant, who was charged with first degree murder, entered a guilty plea to the lesser charge of manslaughter. My fellow jurors and I were no longer required to provide a verdict, so I returned to work the next day.

I consider it a privilege to have been part of the justice system, and was glad I could focus fully on all the witnesses and evidence, free from worry about my livelihood. I’m grateful and proud to work for an organization that enables employees to participate in this cornerstone of a fair and just society.

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Road Builders Soccer Team Nets Fun and Friendship … Continued from Page 19

gift certificates given to the "Class of the League" players (10 men and 10 women) who won the individual voting.

Albeit there is still some inherent competitiveness during play, most players tend to relax when the teams are composed of men and women, and players of all experience levels and ages.

If you’re interested in joining a team, please check out the BCgeCSS website at www.kicks.bc.ca/index.php. If you would like to be on the Road Builders team next season please let me know, as I am the team manager. If there are any openings next spring, I’ll add you to the roster. If there is a large group of people interested, it may be worth starting up another team.

If you have any questions, please get in touch; I’d be happy to talk about what it’s like playing in the league, costs, etc.

Remember, this is a recreational and fun soccer league. It is not just about playing soccer, but about encouraging teamwork, health and wellness, and camaraderie among players. So far, I’m very pleased with the team we’ve created. Our team dynamic, great attitude and love for soccer have allowed us to fit right in with the BCgeCSS league mentality.

All photos courtesy of Carl Wong.

Peter Tran makes a diving save against the Greens United.

Nancy McLeod, with juror summons, at the Victoria Courthouse.
Southern Interior Employees Race for Work/Life Balance
Submitted by David Retzer, EAF Member

David is a member of the EAF’s Team Balancing Act, which focuses on supporting and promoting work/life balance and a healthy lifestyle. He’s happy to be among employees in the Southern Interior Regional Office and their families and friends, who were active this spring, entering teams in two local races.

The first was the Re/MAX Ski2Sea race on April 14. This was the fourth year that the “MoT Steamrollers” relay team participated, and it was definitely a memorable one.

The race started at Big White Ski Resort where alpine skier Kevin Weicker, dressed in full ski gear, carried his skis up the run and then skied back down, before passing it off to Bonnie Cameron who completed a hilly cross-country skate-ski. Normally, she would then pass off to downhill biker Helen Dacho, but the road conditions were too snowy to allow for safe cycling. Instead, road cyclist Frank Dacho started on Highway 33 and cruised down into Kelowna.

David Retzer was waiting for Frank’s arrival before running from East Kelowna down to Okanagan Lake. Paddlers Duane Wells and Kevin Weicker then navigated their canoe across the lake and back. With Duane and Kevin on land again, the whole team grabbed hold of the boat and ran across the finish line.

It was an exciting day; hopefully the event will continue to be a tradition for years to come.

Later in the month, staff participated in a long-standing race in Kamloops, known as the Daily News Boogie. In total, more than 2,000 participants came out to run/walk either one, five, 10 or 21 kilometres. Our group had a strong showing including efforts by Kathryn Weicker, Kevin Weicker, Megan Cullinane, Paul Imada, Tom Freeman, John Babineau, David Retzer, Penny Radies and Bonnie Cameron, plus their friends and families. Penny Radies had even come out of retirement to support the team!

After the boogie, the exhausted athletes met for brunch and recounted the morning’s events.

Ski2Sea competitors complete the race: Duane Wells, Bonnie Cameron, Frank Dacho, Helen Dacho, David Retzer and Kevin Weicker.
Scenic Photos Capture Livin’ the Dream Prizes
Submitted by Thomas Chhun, EAF Member

Thank you to all who participated in the Livin’ the Dream EAF Photo Contest.

The photos submitted showcased some of the province’s most scenic drives, and some of B.C.’s biggest infrastructure projects. The contest was developed to align with the ministry’s vision “to provide a fully integrated transportation system that advances environmental, economic and social objectives, and moves goods and people safely within British Columbia and to markets beyond.”

Contest winners Marcus Saari, Heidi Postnikoff and Jim Hegan each won a barbecue tool set to enhance their summer enjoyment. ★

The Lions Gate Bridge (aka First Narrows Bridge) at night by Marcus Saari, TELP, Lower Mainland District.

★

The Coquihalla Highway captured from high above by Jim Hegan, development and operations technician, Lower Mainland District.

The Alaska Highway in winter by Heidi Postnikoff, acting area manager, Peace District.

The Lions Gate Bridge (aka First Narrows Bridge) at night by Marcus Saari, TELP, Lower Mainland District.

The Coquihalla Highway captured from high above by Jim Hegan, development and operations technician, Lower Mainland District.
Cindy Hogg: Orchestrating CVSA International Road Checks

Submitted by Rick Spanier, EAF Member

Acknowledging the great work and commitment of ministry employees, is what the EAF’s Team Appreciation is all about. I wanted to find out more about Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Supervisor Cindy Hogg, who oversees the Hunter Creek and Haig Inspection Stations and the annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) International Road Check near Hope. I spoke to her recently at her office at Hunter Creek. The road check, from June 4 to 6, had just concluded with a total of 11,648 trucks evaluated in the Hope area, plus Pouce Coupe. (See: CVSA International Road Check: 72-Hour Blitz for Safety, Page 25)

How long have you been with Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE)?

I have been with CVSE at Hunter Creek for 14 years. I was away for a year on the Management Development Program, working out of Victoria for seven months.

Did you have any other positions with the BC Public Service before you came to CVSE?

I have been a public service employee for the past 20 years. I started in a Motor Vehicles office, then worked in the Metrotown Expressway doing driver’s licensing. I then moved to the regional office in Burnaby, where I was the regional director’s administrative assistant. I relocated to the Government Agent office in Nanaimo for a time. In 1999, I moved to the Hunter Creek Inspection Station, where my first day of work was actually during the CVSA Road Check! I have been here ever since.

You are now the organizer of the CVSA Road Check around Hope. How many years have you been doing this?

I really can’t remember…10 or 11 years. I missed one year when I was away on the Management Development Program. I didn’t organize the CVSA Road Check then, but I did attend it, and inspect trucks.

It seems like a monumental task to schedule staff for this event. You had about 60 CVSE employees, and about 25 staff from our various partner agencies working the 2013 CVSA Road Check. Staffing the three work locations – Hunter Creek, Laidlaw and Haig – over 72 hours has to be difficult.

Some employees come from beyond the Lower Mainland area to work on the road check, so the main challenge is establishing the hours that the inspectors’ management want the staff to work. Some people work seven-hour shifts, some people work 10-hour shifts, some people work seven hours and travel for the other three hours. Our partner enforcement agencies work

Continued on Page 24…
the hours that they establish – usually a day shift. The key is to ensure that you don’t have too many officers/inspectors on duty at any one time, but still maintain coverage. The inspectors are really good, and they support me and our enforcement efforts, by ensuring continuous coverage throughout the day.

How do you manage it?

Very honestly, I enjoy doing it. This year was actually easier than in previous years. The largest road check was in 2008, when there were 135 officers/inspectors. As I have organized this event for a number of years now, I know all the inspectors and partner agencies, and it has almost become an old hat. I have learned to overcome a few challenges such as requests from inspectors regarding work location preferences and shifts. The hardest part is to have inspectors work the graveyard shifts. For the most part, it is the Hope Area Inspectors (for whom I am grateful) who work these shifts. I have an incredibly supportive team at Hunter Creek. This team start taking phone calls two months before the road check, they work with me during the check, and when it is all over, they assist with the inventory and clean-up.

Once the CVSA Road Check starts; your work is not finished is it?

No never! (Smiling)

I understand that Loblaws has graciously contributed to this event for a few years now. They provide fresh fruit and veggies, potato chips, cookies, granola bars and bottled water...

Yes, Loblaws has supported us for the past three years. I also purchase coffee, tea, cups, sugar, cream, pop and juice, and ensure that they are all at work locations at the start of the check. I will monitor supplies to ensure that they do not run out. All of this, of course, depends upon the blessing and budget allocated for this by CVSE Regional Manager Steve Haywood. Steve has always been a great support. I usually bake cookies for the inspectors as well, but this year, time did not permit it.

I recall you delivering to each work location, every day, a flat of fresh-baked Danish pastries. I understand that you were up early, all three mornings to pick up those goodies?

Yes, Dutchie’s Bakery in Hope is the supplier of those wonderful treats! They are a family business and make the goodies the very morning that I pick them up. I then distribute them to each work location.

What time does your day begin during road check?

Usually 5:30 to 6 a.m.

The end of your day comes at what time?

Whenever all is done! Usually 7 p.m.-ish. I also make sure that the graveyard shift is taken care of. I have been at the inspection station at 11 p.m. to deliver pizza for them.

Wow…long days indeed! Regarding this year’s Hope road check, was there an amusing story or incident that you could share?

The only thing that comes to mind is that Bruce Calbick (CVSE Portable Supervisor) locked his keys in the ignition of his patrol vehicle. The back hatch was open, so the only way to get the keys was to climb in. Bruce was in dirty coveralls, so I climbed in from the back, over the seats, to rescue his keys. Bruce took a photo of me in there!

On behalf of all of the staff who worked the 2013 CVSA Road Check; we would like to thank you and congratulate you on another successful event. Your dedication, along with that of the inspectors, contributes to making B.C.’s highways safe.

The success of this year’s road check lies in the hands of all of CVSE inspectors, whether they attended or not. The ability to work as a team together with partner enforcement agencies, to create safer roads, is something we should all be proud of.

Is there anything else about yourself that you wish to share with us?

Not really, I try to enjoy life. Be happy every day and look forward to the future. Even if today may not be a good day, tomorrow will only get better! ★
CVSA International Road Check: 72-Hour Blitz for Safety
Submitted by Cindy Hogg, Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Supervisor

The annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) International Road Check is a 72-hour commercial vehicle inspection blitz to improve safety awareness for drivers, and work with the commercial transport industry to reduce incidents and injuries.

This year there were 11,648 trucks evaluated and 558 inspected. There were also 76 buses inspected.

The road checks were held in Pouce Coupe and three locations in the Hope area, from 10 p.m. on June 3, to 10 p.m. on June 6. As usual, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) invited other enforcement agencies to join the effort and together improve road safety in the province. This year’s partners in the Hope area included the ministry’s Passenger Transportation Branch, WorkSafeBC, Delta Police, New Westminster Police, Abbotsford Police, Surrey and Fraser Valley RCMP, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Transport Canada (Transportation of Dangerous Goods) and the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Commercial vehicles and buses that are stopped for inspection are chosen randomly, with inspection times varying from about 20 minutes to one hour, depending on the vehicle size and condition. The majority of inspections conducted are CVSA Level 1 inspections which are the most rigorous of all roadside inspections.

Statistics from CVSE’s road check contribute to an annual snapshot of the condition of commercial vehicles, motor coaches and drivers within the industry, throughout all of North America.

Thank you to all CVSE staff and other folks in the ministry who helped out, for your continued participation and dedication to making B.C.’s highways safe.

Take a look at this video by CVSE Assistant Regional Manager Cole Delisle, to see what’s involved: tranbc.ca/2013/06/22/cvse-commercial-safety-roadcheck-2013/ ★
Sink or Swim... Again?!
Submitted by Coenraad C. Fourie
District Transportation Engineer

When my family contemplated moving from northern Manitoba to picturesque East Kootenay, and Cranbrook in particular, I clearly recall considering the weather and concluding that we were bound to enjoy milder winters, warmer summers and less flooding than in Manitoba (which had become quite flood prone). Well, I am happy to say that yes, the winters are a lot milder than we hoped, but it sure seems I got the flooding part wrong!

I was just about to get comfortable in my new office and work environment, when I got the call to assist with flood mitigation on Highway 3 west of Sparwood, and also learned that Highway 1 had just been closed! And I thought I was done with flooding! Here we go again – road and culvert washouts and bridges threatening to give way to raging rivers! And this was only the first week in my new job… trial by fire… or sink and swim?

Truth be told, amidst all the apparent chaos arose great opportunities for individuals to step up, meet the challenge head on and excel. Furthermore, I quickly learned that just like in Manitoba, the provincial government transportation ministry here in B.C. is blessed with numerous dedicated and capable individuals. These people provided and continue to provide, countless hours of unwavering, selfless hard work, to ensure public safety and minimize damage to our road, culvert and bridge infrastructure. Many individuals sacrificed important family commitments to expedite temporary repairs, and now that the dust (okay water) has settled, those same individuals are still at it, wrapping things up and trying to resume their normal duties over and above.

With Highway 1 closed, a detour along Highway 3 was considered the only viable option for traffic. This elevated the strategic importance of ensuring that Highway 3 stayed intact, and continued to be an alternative for the movement of commercial road freight.

In the course of a short, intensive week, I got to meet many new fellow employees rather quickly and under somewhat challenging circumstances. After an interesting first work week, I am getting to settle into my new office and appreciating every moment of it! If I had any reservations about whether I was going to enjoy my new workplace, they’re gone.

If this was only week one... what’s next?! ★
Talking TranBC: Join the Club and the Discussion
Submitted by Russel Lolacher, Web and Social Media Director

Interested in learning more about social media and communications? There’s a community for that. Join Talking TranBC’s private Facebook group.

How we communicate and how we get information has drastically changed in the last few years. And it ain’t changing back anytime soon. Social media, and all its various platforms, has become the number one activity on the web. It’s actually tied newspapers as the number two source of news information, and it’s gaining traction on the top news source, which is television. The problem is, technology and adoption rates are moving far faster than ever. Don’t believe me? Check this out. To reach 50 million users*, it took:

- telephone: 75 years
- radio: 38 years
- television: 13 years
- Internet: four years
- Angry Birds (online game): 35 days

*courtesy of Socialnomics.net

With change this quick, it’s not uncommon for people to feel left behind and sometimes resistant. (Ask my parents). The best way to learn or get answers to any type of question (even ones you think are dumb) is to talk about it in a comfortable environment. That was my hope when I launched the Talking TranBC community. Whether you’ve been on Twitter for a while or have never heard of Pinterest, you’re welcome to join. It’s for everyone, no matter their experience level.

Anyone can post questions, comments or stories/websites they’ve read. And they do. But do you have to? No. There’s value in just reading what others have posted… that’s called lurking. (See, you’ve learned something already).

So, how do you join? First, you have to have an account on Facebook. It’s always best to learn about social media when you actually are on social media. Second, contact me, Russel Lolacher. We can have a quick chat about joining Talking TranBC and then I’ll add you to the group. Sorry, it’s a private group so you have to be invited, and you won’t be able to find it by searching. Arrangements can be made to keep your own Facebook account private.

If you have any questions, please let me or anyone on the Social Media Team know. I hope you consider joining because it’s more fun with more people. (Though it’s already pretty fun).

Alfred Atkins’ Apprehension
Submitted by Alfred Atkins, (Retired) Ministry of Transportation 1955-1997

I was a little apprehensive when I suggested to my son, Lower Mainland District Manager Brian Atkins, that he take a ride on his recently acquired Harley Davidson, along the Hope to Princeton route, and on to Penticton.

I suggested that we could meet there, to take in the annual Penticton Elvis Festival, June 28 to 30. Contributing to my apprehension was the fact that Brian had recently acquired a guitar and was aggressively taking lessons.

Despite being brought up in a home where Elvis generation music was always in the background, Elvis Presley had never had a big impact on Brian.

But now with Brian’s new bike, the guitar and a renewed interest in Elvis, I had some suspicions.

The festival’s Tribute Artist Contest was a huge success. The impression it made on Brian was evident when his appreciative parting words ended with, “I hope I get an invite next year.”

On my trip home to Qualicum Beach, I spent the weekend with Brian in the Lower Mainland, and as always, was offered the courtesy of using his bedroom. Upon retiring for the evening, there in the bedroom corner above his new guitar, I saw this picture (see insert).

And that is the rest of the story…

By the way, that weekend we spent an afternoon at the race track and be darned if Brian didn’t come away a winner! Just where could this lead?

★
Going Green with Crystal’s Carpool
Submitted by Tom Freeman, Manager Programming and Project Development

Crystal Chenier’s retirement dissolves the longest lasting carpool at the Southern Interior Region building in Kamloops.

I began carpooling with Crystal many years ago (around the turn of century) and it was a very rewarding experience. Crystal’s determination and enthusiasm grew our carpool to three people and eventually four. Believe me, that was a feat she should be proud of. We were recognized by the City of Kamloops and shown on the CFJC TV news.

Here’s some highlights from our carpool experiences, including the pros and cons of carpooling.

• Parking: Preferred parking spot at reduced rate or free (if three or more in carpool)
• Organization and communication: Who is driving tomorrow? Bring the parking tag. Pro-active communication is a must...
• Cost savings: Less driving = fewer kilometres travelled = less expenses = more cash for other things (aka fun money!)
• Having occasional delays: What’s going on?...Where is so and so?... teaches patience.
• Emission reductions: Less greenhouse gas, fewer particulates, save the world, the list goes on...
• All the knowledge: Conversations to and from work allow one to get a better understanding what goes in the ministry as well more about people’s lives and families.
• Doing the right thing: Trading off the personal comfort and convenience of the single occupancy vehicle for the greater good of society!

We had many great times carpooling... sometimes with heat cranked up in winter months (with blanket for Crystal to keep her from freezing)… to summer time with windows down in Mazda or with comfortable air conditioning (when Crystal or Malcolm drove). A quiet person (that’s me) got to know an outgoing person (Crystal). We both got to know more about each other and enjoy a great to and from work routine.

I got hooked on Survivor and had to be ready to go on those nights... 4:20 p.m... time to go? I think we had a 10-minute time differential on our clocks! Perhaps, the reality was that my clock was five minutes slow and Crystal’s was five minutes fast. ★
"Hi, my name's Cliff Razzo and I'm a Social Media Star," said Cliff, never.

Why wouldn’t he say that? Well, for a couple of reasons:

A) Cliff would just never say this.

and

B) Cliff would be the first to tell you that he wouldn’t have believed this a year ago.

However, the fact is the @TranBC_Kootpass Twitter account managed by Cliff was recently nominated for a Shorty Award, which honours the best in social media around the world. Along with local nominees the Creston Museum, Creston and District Public Library, and I Love Creston magazine, Cliff’s social presence was recognized for its ability to engage and inform about community travel, news and events.

So what are the Shorty Awards? Right from their website, they “honor the best in social media; recognizing the people and organizations producing real-time short content across Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, YouTube, Foursquare and the rest of the social web.” Previous winners in various categories include Conan O’Brien, NASA, The Suze Orman Show, Mayor Cory Booker and Sesame Street’s Grover. Would Cliff count himself among them (especially Grover)?

Before we reveal the winner of the fifth annual Shorty Awards, here’s a little background on @TranBC_Kootpass. Creston Area Manager Cliff Razzo started the account quietly on July 19, 2011, but wasn’t really sure what he wanted to do or say. What he did do right away is connect with ministry stakeholders (like truckers and travellers) and local people online, all while putting a human face on his area within the West Kootenay District. Yes, that’s a picture of Cliff himself on the Twitter account. It was a great start.

And though he’s gotten more strategic and purposeful in the past two years, sharing weather alerts and travel information, Cliff has never stopped doing those things that have made him approachable and successful: consistently and reliably engaging with and promoting his community.

The secret to social media is talking with people and being useful to them – far more than talking about yourself. This builds long-term trust and relationships – something Cliff has certainly established.

The Shorty Award winners were announced online, and at a ceremony in New York on April 8. And although @TranBC_KootPass was not handed the shiny award with the whale tale, it continues to be a winner for the ministry in the West Kootenays.

“[The Shortys recognize that social media is about more than who can get the most followers. Every day … we are creating millions of pieces of new writing that will define our generation, the way hand-written letters and linotype newspapers once did. These writings are more than just passing thoughts — they are creating our history of record.”

– John Dube, Forbes magazine, March 26, 2012

Twitter conversations with Cliff Razzo.
Road Runner Contributor Conveys Passion for Critters
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Wildlife and Environmental Issues Specialist Leonard Sielecki is a public servant who is passionate about what he does -- and about sharing his knowledge. Ask him just about anything and he's always amiable and ready to respond, and to provide his information in a way that the listener can understand (even if they aren't a wildlife biologist).

As a regular Road Runner contributor, Leonard has submitted about 14 articles over the last nine years. In past editions of Road Runner, his name has appeared with stories about toad migrations on Vancouver Island, designs for sasquatch crossing signs and wildlife awareness campaigns for drivers.

What motivates you to write for Road Runner?
The opportunity to share the work that the ministry has been doing, and showcase the individuals that make the ministry a leader among transportation agencies worldwide in protecting the environment.

What topics do you like to write about?
Projects where the ministry’s district staff develop innovative approaches to deal with the challenges that Mother Nature and all her creatures create for us. My favourite was the one, where on their own initiative in the late 1950s, ministry staff in the Okanagan constructed rattlesnake underpasses. This was decades before anyone was thinking about protecting wildlife of any species, let alone snakes that rattle and bite.

Have you always liked writing?
Yes, ever since I learned to write.

What advice would you give people who would like to write an article, but might not have done it before?
Write about something you love and want other people to know about. Tell the story from a personal perspective. Don’t worry about getting everything perfect the first time. Try to include a photo or two, because a picture is worth at least a thousand words.

Who do you share your published Road Runner articles with?
Just about everyone, from members of the public and the media, to researchers in other provinces and other countries. It is amazing how much an article in the Road Runner can say about the ministry to someone who wants to know what we do.

50 Years of Road Runner Archived Online
Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

I used to feel a little uneasy, that there were paper editions of the Road Runner in offices scattered across the province and a partial collection in binders here at headquarters. That’s a lot of ministry history, to leave to the perils of potential fires or floods. If there was major damage to the building at HQ, would all those old editions spanning from the 1960s to late 1990s survive? Could a complete set ever be formed again?

Now, I’m no longer concerned, as all back copies are posted on the Internet. With this being Road Runner’s 50th anniversary year, there was no better time to preserve our employee publication for posterity’s sake. That’s what got my colleagues and me fired up about archiving every Road Runner produced since the newsletter’s November 1963 launch.

Social Media Writer/Researcher James Penner was particularly keen about this, and took on gathering editions from far and wide, to ensure we had as full a set as possible. (We think we have them all). He then sought out and obtained support from the Employee Advisory Forum to cover the costs of scanning about 100 editions, which pre-dated when Road Runner went digital and online in 1999. This help from the forum is hugely appreciated and was essential to moving the project along.

Big thanks go to James and to the collectors he sought out, for filling the gaps in the collection maintained by Information and Records Services. Among them are people like long-time Communications Manager Jeff Knight, former Information Records Services Supervisor Shelley Keddy, current Information Records Services Supervisor Miranda Fattore and Records Management Coordinator Sharon Brown. Special thanks also to Howard Hunter, who, before he retired about two years ago, thoughtfully contacted me about his copies of the newsletter (all in immaculate condition) and sent them to me. It was also great to discover other people who offered

Continued on Page 31…
Pictured in Road Runner – 43 Years Later
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

On June 24, I received an email that read:

Dear Staff Member,

As the child of a long time serving B.C. Department of Highways employee, I became familiar with the Road Runner magazine during my father’s tenure of employment with the highways. The magazine had an orange strip across the top with the words Road Runner written in black and white in the middle. My father was a grader operator who worked in Winlaw for 33 years. He would bring home a copy of the magazine that I would look through to see all the pictures of the latest happenings in this sector of the government. At the time of publication of these magazines I remember seeing a photo of W.D. Black who was the Minister responsible for Transportation and Highways. Do you have access to any of the copies of the magazine in your archives? I always enjoyed reading the magazine and looking at the photos of different areas and the people who worked for the B.C. Dept of Highways.

Alan Brown

I wrote back to Alan to find out his father’s name, then looked Joseph Brown up in the archived editions of Road Runner. Joseph was mentioned once, in the March 1970 edition, in a section recognizing people who had achieved 25 years of service. His name was there, but there was no accompanying photo. In the meantime, Alan sent me a wonderful photo of his father during the early part of his career.

As Joseph Brown missed having his photo in the newsletter, here’s a photo now, to pay tribute to Joseph (who passed away in 2005) and his family members. It turns out quite of few of his family worked for the Highways Department in the area. Alan recounts there was “Great Uncle Dick (Smith) who taught Dad how to operate the grader,” and his uncles Robert and George Swanson (his mother’s brothers). Alan’s sister, Sharon, also worked for the department as a summer student.

Alan says that in the 70s, his father took up golfing, set up a driving range and putting green on his property, and greatly enjoyed golfing and socializing with his work crew. After Joseph retired in 1977, he’d take his camper to the annual retired employee golf tournament in the Kootenay area.

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Grader Operator
Joseph Brown (pictured here) regularly brought the Road Runner home, says his son, Alan Brown.

Wendy Grant posted the collection online.

50 Years of Road Runner Archived Online

… Continued from Page 30

up their collections like Crystal Chenier and Janine Muri. One day, some binders of Road Runners appeared (unrequested, but timely and most welcome) from the South Coast Region. I’m guessing someone there was probably “lightening up” before moving to the Regional Management Transportation Centre in Coquitlam.

After amassing all the copies, James worked with Queen’s Printer to identify the option for document scanning, that would be searchable and provide the best quality. The result is a crisp, comprehensive collection of Road Runners in PDF format.

The last step of the project was posting all the scanned editions. Web Content Strategist Wendy Grant was the person who brought them all home (onto the Internet), in her always pleasant and patient way.

Looking through some of the old Road Runners online, is to journey back to what ministry employees were doing way back when.

Watch for highlights from the older Road Runners in the next edition, and please contact me if you have any copies in your collection which aren’t online.

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Winner Named for “Driving, Roads and Highways” Quiz

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Congratulations to Kristen Spearman, who won the draw from among six correct entries in the “Driving, Roads and Highways Quiz” contest.

Kristen, a project management technician in Nelson, has received a shiny blue LCD flashlight, with the British Columbia logo printed on it. She and five other entrants answered all 17 of the questions correctly, unravelling the clues, to identify songs released from the 1960s to the last decade, that contain the words “driving,” “road” or “highway” (or a variations of those words).

“My boyfriend, Roderick, helped me to fill in where I couldn’t get the answers – he’s quite the music and puzzle aficionado,” says Kristen.

“The clue about the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Roadtrippin’ was the one that drew me into the quiz. It’s one of my favourite road trip songs and brings back lots of good memories of summer trips past.”

Other individuals and teams that named the tunes correctly were:

- Mary Bratanovic, Janice Meier and Gislene Guenard
- Pam and Rob McDermid
- Dianne Froese and Darwin Tyacke
- Ron Wiebe
- Gord Chudleigh

Here are the clues and answers:

1. 1985 tune sung by speaking body parts – Road To Nowhere, Talking Heads
2. “Less than a week” song was recorded the same year Road Runner was first published – Six Days on the Road, Dave Dudley
3. “Road celebrity,” sung by richly-coloured rock band – Highway Star, Deep Purple
4. Canadian musician (formerly of Red Rider) sings his philosophy – Life is a Highway, Tom Cochrane
5. Juno Award-winning singer (scheduled to play in Victoria on July 14) sings about difficult path – Hard Road, Sam Roberts
6. An employee publication celebrating its 50th anniversary and a speedy critter – Road Runner, Bo Diddley
7. Number one song on 1980 Hot Country Singles, about commercial vehicle operation, was crooned by rodent-surnamed singer – Drivin’ My Life Away, Eddie Rabbitt
8. Optimisticly-themed hit from 2000, from a group with a demonic name – Drive, Incubus
9. Metal artist who bit a bat has a song with the same title as another in this quiz – Road to Nowhere, Ozzy Osbourne
10. 1988 song by good junior meat eaters – She Drives Me Crazy, Fine Young Cannibals
11. Song title is singular form of group’s name (sung by four famed “outlaw country” artists) – Highwayman, The Highwaymen (Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson)
12. Spicy group from Los Angeles sings about travel with two pals – Road Trippin’, Red Hot Chili Peppers
13. High-voltage rock group sings about route to a hot place – Highway to Hell, AC/DC
14. Song title includes District Manager Bennetto’s given name – Hit the Road Jack, Percy Mayfield
15. Canadian singer, age 74, sadly seeks escape in this 1974 song – Carefree Highway, Gordon Lightfoot
16. Song about site of illegal activities labelled “power twang” – Copperhead Road, Steve Earle
17. Red-haired Grammy winner with itchy feet sings that she’s not “your little darlin’, sweet coquette” – The Road is My Middle Name, Bonnie Raitt
CVSE at **Carrier Appreciation Night**
Submitted by Gary Li, Supervisor Pacific Inspection Station

Pacific Customs Brokers, a company that facilitates goods transport between the U.S and Canada, hosted its second Annual Carrier Appreciation Night on April 24, at Eaglequest Coyote Creek Golf Course, in Surrey.

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) was invited to set up an information table and was represented by Carrier Safety Inspectors Carl Steele and Ron McCormack, as well as myself. Also participating were officials from the Canada Border Services Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Surrey Board of Trade.

The evening was an informal reception for carriers and agencies to mingle, share stories and foster better understanding of the processes each carrier or agency deals with to maintain efficient, safe and convenient road transport of goods between the U.S and Canada. CVSE had an opportunity to talk at length with the owners of several medium to large local companies and the feedback we received was very positive. We look forward to becoming a regular participant in all the upcoming annual Carrier Appreciation Nights.

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Carrier Safety Inspectors Ron McCormack and Carl Steele at CVSE’s information table.

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CVSE Participates at **APNA Show and Truck Driving Championships**
Submitted by Carl Steele, Carrier Safety Inspector

June certainly was an extremely busy month for Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) officers. In addition to all the other activities (see CVSA International Road Check, Page 25), some of us attended two industry events in Abbotsford.

The first was on the weekend of June 15 and 16. Several officers attended the APNA truck show and shine, at the TRADEX centre. This event showcases new trucks and trailers, as well as many new and innovative parts and ideas for trucking companies and drivers. CVSE operated a booth to offer insight and answer questions about sizes and weights, hours of service, the Weigh2GoBC program and respond to any questions that drivers and company management had about trucking in B.C.

It’s always good to attend these events to provide information in a neutral setting. More often than not, we deal with a lot of these issues at the scales, or on the side of the road. Drivers, company officials and CVSE officers are all in a more relaxed environment, allowing for a better exchange of ideas and information.

APNA was attended by CVSE officers Harji Bisla, Ted Nager, Sandra Goes, Larry Ness, George Symons, Michelle Slater, Ben Taylor and Carl Steele. Pam McDermid and Chris Brown were also there to showcase the Weigh2GoBC program.

The second event was the BC Professional Truck Driving Championships, hosted by the BC Trucking Association, on June 22, also at the TRADEX centre in Abbotsford. Commercial Transport Inspector Michelle Slater and Carrier Safety Inspector Carl Steele helped judge the competition, where some of the best truck drivers in B.C. show off their skills. Drivers competing in this event have to do a written test to demonstrate their knowledge of the rules and regulations, do a timed pre-trip inspection and navigate their truck and trailer through an obstacle course.

Winners from each class will compete against other drivers in the national competition, to be held at TRADEX, in September.

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What Is That Fluid on My Leg: Memoirs of a Parental Leave (Rated PG)

Submitted by Graeme Cross, Regional Traffic Engineer

Today on July 5, my daughter, Summer, turns one year old and I have come to terms that I do not know how to dress a girl. Wardrobe theory was not a problem for my three older sons. Diaper… pants…shirt…simple! (Socks were a bonus).

However, even after a concerted effort on my part, I’m told the light pink shirt clashes with the dark pink pants and pink hearts on her socks. And who knew that buttons on a girl’s shirt go on the back and not the front? There are other surprises too – I’ve unravelled a “girly looking shirt” from the clean laundry basket only to find out it’s my wife’s underwear.

Having a daughter is quite different from sons in ways I didn’t even expect. During an amazing 10 ½ months of parental leave I have found out that when you have a girl, it’s suddenly not so “innovative” to have her crawl on the floor around her high chair to clean up the Cheerios and Mum Mum crackers from snack time, instead of sweeping.

Teething is still a fun time of infant irritability, and parental anticipation of finally seeing white Chiclets of teeth bursting through her gums. It also marks a milestone when we can finally ditch the mashed peas for real food like steak and bratwurst.

Upon examining the first teeth with my finger, my precious daughter brought me to a very clear revelation. The three sharpest objects in my house at that very moment were: a Gillette Fusion ProGlide razor, a paring knife and brand new teeth pressing into my flesh.

One thing that’s universal among parents is a special interaction with our infants – an experience as old as Adam and Eve, with baby Cain. Now that I’ve returned to work full time from my parental leave, it won’t be having as much of that. I like to call it “What is that fluid on my leg?”

At this point, I must caution that you will find some potty humour forthcoming. Therefore, if your bare hands have not had the bonding experience of dealing with an absolutely nasty diaper, while your baby wiggles and kicks and smiles like you’re playing some sort of game, you should avert your virgin eyes at this time and perhaps read a safer article about Public Service Week or Carrier Appreciation Night.

Now that you’ve been warned, “What is that fluid on my leg,” goes something like this...

You’re innocently holding your infant while multitasking getting another child a snack, loading the dishwasher, turning off lights in vacated rooms, memorizing a mental grocery list and responding to a text message, when you suddenly feel a warm fluid seeping through your clothing.

This is when all multitasking abruptly ends and your focus and deductive skills heighten to a point that would bring about a smug smile and clap of recognition to Mr. Sherlock Holmes himself. Your infant’s demeanour never gives anything away – leaking fluid from orifices is the norm – so there is not much help there.

Nevertheless, you quickly discover the offending bodily fluid. My personal list, in increasing order of intensity, is as follows:

- Tears
- Sweat
- Saliva
- Urine
- Mucus
- Vomit
- Butt juice

It’s at this point, you make a judgement call whether a bath and clothing change is needed, or just a quick wipe and move on with life. The fluid intensity, hunger, fatigue, current craziness decibel level, and your agenda for the rest of the day, are key factors in this decision.

A wipe down and carrying on with life seems to happen with stunning frequency.

Graeme Cross wrote a previous article for November 2010 Road Runner about his experiences while on parental leaves.

Summer Cross appears to be a bright and active (future) voter.

Graeme Cross during a peaceful moment with one-year-old Summer.
Another Win for Weigh2GoBC
Submitted by Pam McDermid, ITS Initiatives Manager

They’ve done it again – the Weigh2GoBC project team has won a national award!

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Society of Canada’s annual awards acknowledge significant and defining people, projects and initiatives in the Canadian ITS sector.

Weigh2GoBC has been chosen as this year’s winner of the ITS Project/Programme Award in a large metropolitan, provincial or federal area.

Winners were presented with their award at the ITS Canada Annual Conference in Toronto, in May. Randy Hanson of International Road Dynamics which installed Weigh2GoBC, attended the event and graciously accepted the award on our behalf. Randy then came to Victoria to personally present the award to the project team.

British Columbia’s Weigh2GoBC program is an advanced application of networked weigh-in-motion and automatic-vehicle-identification technologies, enabling more efficient movement of commercial vehicles throughout the province. To date, it has saved industry more than $4 million in driver time and fuel, and prevented 275,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the environment.

Future plans for Weigh2GoBC include adding the ability for out-of-province based vehicles to register in the program. Right now only B.C.-based carriers, Washington-based carriers and carriers enrolled in Alberta’s Partners in Compliance program can register. In addition, we are expanding to allow all mobile and fixed station CVSE staff to check a vehicle and issue a “good to go” that may allow the vehicle to bypass all fixed Weigh2GoBC-equipped inspection stations en route to their destination.

Winning Weigh2GoBC team: Ken Clark, Sam Casler, Tahna Neilson, Pam McDermid, Randy Hanson (International Road Dynamics) and Brian Murray.
Director among Top 100 for Customer Service Social Media

Submitted by Neil Judson, Social Media Writer/Researcher

Outside of work, Russel Lolacher uses social media to connect with people on the topic of customer service.

The Web and Social Media Group was all atwitter when news broke that the Huffington Post named the ministry’s Web and Social Media Director Russel Lolacher one of the top 100 customer service professionals exemplifying excellence using social media.

Outside of work, Russel writes a customer service blog, The Upsell, and his Twitter account @RussLol focuses on customer service stories and best practices.

In a July 25 blog, Vala Afshar, chief customer officer of computer networking company Enterasys Networks, said he chose the top 100 for regularly contributing valuable content on Twitter.

“These service champions create and curate original content that speaks to customer experience management, customer support delivery, customer relationship management, service performance management, social customer care, and community management,” he said.

Back in April, the International Customer Management Institute ranked Russel’s customer service Twitter handle 19th among its selection of 100 best customer service-focused Twitter accounts. The institute’s website says the institute has helped more than 50,000 organizations in 167 countries through training, events, certification, consulting and informational resources, since 1984.

The Huffington Post blog concludes with, “I believe these customer service champions deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their work.” We can’t help but agree!

Keith Callander Claims “A” Title in Racquetball Nationals

Submitted by Tracy Wynnyk, Field Services Occupational Health and Safety Advisor

Some of you may know Director of Field Services Keith Callander as an avid and skilled golfer; and those who connect with him regularly may expect to hear about his performance in a recent tournament or weekend game.

However, many may not know that Keith has another passion, which he took up with friends in the late 70s, at the age of 19, in his home town of Abbotsford. Not only does Keith enjoy the sport but he has won a number of tournaments and titles over his 34 years of play…

Keith has proved his exceptional skill and athletic ability in the fast-paced and demanding sport of racquetball. Recently, at a May tournament, Keith reigned supreme by winning the National Men’s “A” title, in Langley.

Keith has never received any professional coaching and has achieved his success through hard work and perseverance. In his younger days, Keith and his friends played three to five times per week, for two to three hours a day. Keith worked his way up the ranks from a “D” player to an “A” player by watching advanced players, and applying the techniques he saw to his game.

Keith finds racquetball to be a sport which is both physically and mentally demanding. In tournaments, players typically play two games a day, but up to four games if playing doubles.

“Physically you are engaged in a high-paced activity which requires quick movement, change of directions, power shots and even dives,” says Keith. “Mentally you are evaluating your opponent, determining their weaknesses and attempting to capitalize on them. The mental aspect is a big part of the game; if you don’t remain focussed you lose the edge to make good decisions.”

Prior to the game, Keith attempts to remain focused and relaxed. When the game starts he lets the intense play envelop his senses to become one with the match.

Currently, Keith is ranked eighth provincially and 79th nationally, in the men’s classification. (Keith has been ranked as high as 46th nationally.) His recent tournament results include:

- 2013 Canadian Racquetball Nationals, 1st in the Men’s A
- 2013 B.C. Racquetball Association (BCRA) Victoria Open, 3rd in the Men’s Open
- 2012 BCRA Provincials, 1st in the Men’s 45+A
- 2012 BCRA Superbowl Classic, 1st in the Men’s 45+A
- 2011 BCRA Vernon Splatfest, 1st in the Men’s A
- 2011 BCRA Superbowl Classic, 1st in the Men’s 45+A
- 2010 BCRA BC Open, 1st in the Men’s 45+A
- 2010 BCRA Superbowl Classic, 1st in the Men’s 45+A

Keith’s recent national men’s “A” win was on his “bucket list” so when asked what’s next, this is what Keith had to offer.

“I will never be an Open player and will continue to play recreationally. Maybe the next step will be competing with some of the most experienced and competitive men in the 50+ division.”

Despite Keith saying he’s not Open Division (extremely skilled players competing without age categories) player, knowing Keith’s exceptional abilities and competitive nature, I wouldn’t be surprised to see some wins from him there sometime in the future.

Congratulations Keith, on your most recent title win, and all the best in whatever competitive path (or court) you choose next!
**Bike to Work Participation Doubles in Kamloops**
Submitted by Megan Cullinane, Development Approvals Technician

The active folks in the ministry's Kamloops offices doubled their participation in Bike to Work Week this year, and placed first in the city, for the event's large workplace (51 or more employees) category.

Some 20 people from the Southern Interior Regional Office and the Thompson-Nicola District office took to two-wheeled transport, logging 1,075 kilometres cycling to work and around the community. All types of cyclists participated – some who already bike to work every day, and some who borrowed bikes just for the event.

There were daily prizes for the team, and team prizes within the Bike to Work Week event in Kamloops.

Some of the Bike to Work Week participants in Kamloops, who cycled for fun, fitness and the environment.

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**Ministry Keeps Things Moving Safely During Vancouver Marathon**
Submitted by Henry Lew, Traffic Operations Engineer

When the 42nd annual BMO Vancouver Marathon took place on May 5, ministry staff ensured that vehicle traffic continued to move efficiently and the 16,000 event participants were kept safe. While the majority of the marathon was within the city of Vancouver, portions of the course were on roads within ministry jurisdiction, including West 16th Avenue, SW Marine Drive, NW Marine Drive and Stanley Park.

The race began in Queen Elizabeth Park at about 8 a.m. and finished in downtown Vancouver with the fastest runner completing the full marathon (42.2 kilometres) within 2½ hours. Scenic highlights included participants running past Spanish Banks beach and around the Stanley Park seawall.

The ministry reviewed and approved the traffic management plan which included details about lane closures, event signage and traffic control personnel. Area Development and Operations Technician Glenn Callander issued the special event permit for the marathon.

Some of the 16,000 runners near the start of the BMO Vancouver Marathon.
RoadRunner Sighted on Route 66

While on a Las Vegas vacation in May, Daniela Pricope and her husband Cristian made a quick stop on their way to the Grand Canyon, to investigate the Route 66 RoadRunner Cafe in Seligman, Arizona.

Cristian had hoped to try some of their “famous” tacos and Daniela looked over some local crafts and souvenirs but they were pressed for time, so kept driving along iconic Route 66. Daniela sent the photo of the business, into the Road Runner, because the stop reminded her of work, and of course, this publication.
Evacuation and Marketing
Submitted by Shery Owen, Administrative Coordinator

Business Management Services Branch Wardens Lindsay Stringer and Amber Rossner take part in a building evacuation, while marketing the Adopt-a-Highway program at the same time. The drill was held on May 8, at ministry headquarters, in Victoria.

A Long, Long Load
The Peace District has become known for extra-long and/or wide loads being transported to serve industry in the northeast of B.C. This load was 47.28 metres long when the blade for a wind tower and the truck transporting it were measured. The photo was by taken by Darren Anderson and submitted by Doreen McAllister.

What a Way to Move!
Submitted by Nick Leatham, Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer

Here's an unusual example of an illegal three-vehicle combination, Illegal combination/coupling and improper coupling. Beyond these concerns, it's likely the fifth wheel travel trailer, connected to the truck being transported on the flat trailer, would exceed ratings for the flat trailer's hitch and brakes.

The combination was enough to draw the attention of a member of the RCMP.
Gracias y Adiós (Thank You and Goodbye) Judy Gunderson
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Regional Manager, Northern Region Business Services

While I have always valued the members of my team, when the first retired, it became apparent that things would never be the same. I knew that once one left, it wouldn’t be long before others followed. I do believe that every ending is a new beginning. However, I don’t always welcome change, especially when the group you work with runs like a fine-tuned, well-oiled machine.

On May 31, we said goodbye to Regional Management Administrator Judy Gunderson. A dinner held at one of Judy’s favourite restaurants was well attended by co-workers, family and friends. Infrastructure Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Richter presented Judy with a letter from Deputy Minister Grant Main and a meritorious service scroll. Regional Director Kirsten Pedersen gave Judy a gift certificate for travel, from the ministry and Judy’s co-workers.

It was 1991 when Judy started with the ministry. However, it wasn’t until 2002 that I had the pleasure to work with her. In 2002, four of us from the Finance and Administrative group became the Administrative Section. It amazes me when I think back, and see how far we have come and what we accomplished as a team. I credit Judy with a large portion of that success. When others were hesitant to put their name forward, she jumped in with both feet. Until her last day, Judy continued to take on challenges. She always strived to do her best and came through when needed. Her sense of humour and willingness to put herself out there are valued traits that many times eased tense situations and resulted in laughter instead of tears – and I thank her for that. Judy’s compassion and curiosity make her who she is. Those of us remaining will miss our daily interactions with Judy.

I will always fondly recall our roads trips and time together. Wherever we travelled, whenever we coordinated an event, and in our daily work, there was laughter and fun. Not every day – but most days.

I want to thank Judy for her support during the times we worked together, for challenging me to see things from different perspectives, and overall, for making me a better supervisor. Judy, you will be missed! May you enjoy a long and happy retirement with Greg and those grandchildren!

“Retirement is having nothing to do and someone always keeping you from it.”

– Robert Brault