Toasts, Peace and VIP Guests – Road Runner’s Anniversary Concludes

Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

A ministry-wide toast, VIP guests and celebrations around the province capped off a year of recognition for Road Runner’s 50th anniversary, on Nov. 27.

A videoconference party connection took place between the three regional offices and HQ. Together, folks in those offices raised their glasses to their colleagues on screen, at 2:45 p.m.

VIPs attending at HQ were Leslie Gilmour and Joan Baines, daughter and wife of Road Runner’s first editor, Ray Baines. Also there, was former Road Runner editor Betty Nicholson (now retired) who worked with Ray and whose career in government has touched several Road Runner editors, past and current. (See November 2013 Road Runner for more about Betty and Leslie.)

Celebrations took place elsewhere in the ministry, some featuring zany costumes. Thanks to Leslie Elder, Stephanie Lorentz, Dave Retzer and Gerri Goulet for sending in photos from gatherings at their offices. My deep appreciation also goes to James Penner and Kathy Macovichuk who captured the party at HQ for posterity.

Peace and Love Pervade in Fort St. John

Love and peace permeated the Peace District office throughout the celebrations in Fort St. John. Experiencing a flashback to the 60s, the gang exhibited pucker power lips, tie dye psychedelic colours, afros, headbands, peace signs and plenty of flower power!
Editor’s Note

You’ll find many interesting stories in this issue about employees putting forward their best.

They complete complicated repairs to a vital bridge in frigid conditions, restore streams for salmon, and converse with British Columbians in a new way – online in a Twitter town hall meeting. They also put out extra effort to help others by raising funds and making something extra special happen for someone’s Christmas.

What would you give to help someone? A kidney? Read on, to find out about one of our extraordinary employees who by donating an organ, saved the lives of two people.

I hope what you find in the pages beyond delights, enlightens and inspires you.

Nancy McLeod, Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

Graphic design for Road Runner is provided by Kathy Macovichuk.
Toasts, Peace and VIP Guests – Road Runner’s Anniversary Concludes … Continued from Page 1

Southern Interior Region Salutes Road Runner
Staff at the Southern Interior Region office in Kamloops joined the ministry-wide toast via videoconference, with the two other regional offices and HQ. When the time came – precisely 2:45 p.m. – they saluted Road Runner’s five decades of sharing the professional and personal news of ministry employees.

Kim Brown, Paula Cousins, Bonnie Fadden and Jeannie Reeves (far side of table) and Trent Folk (right, foreground) raise their glasses to Road Runner’s long history.

Tina Kulchyski and Pam Grosjean look over one of the older Road Runner issues from the region’s collection.

Toasts to Runner from the Rocky Mountain District
When Rocky Mountain District accepted the invitation to join the ministry-wide toast to Road Runner (and possibly win a prize) they took it literally. Toast became the toast. (Was it a double toast?)

Says Leslie Elder, “We had great fun preparing and even left a little confetti for the janitor to enjoy later!”

Toast served up several ways in the Rocky Mountain District.

Employees at HQ say “cheers” to our newsletter by and for employees.

Joan Baines and Leslie Gilmour (family of Road Runner’s first editor) with Road Runner Editor Nancy McLeod and former editor Betty Nicholson.

More on Page 4…
Toasts, Peace and VIP Guests – Road Runner’s Anniversary Concludes … Continued from Page 3

A Toast to Two Anniversaries at CVSE in Dawson Creek

Two anniversaries were celebrated by employees from the Provincial Permit Centre and Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement, in Dawson Creek, on Nov. 27.

The first was a toast to Road Runner’s 50th birthday, amid a giant decorated inflatable, tools of the trade and lots of vests and uniforms. The horizontal person (in the photo below) is not really taking a laid-back approach to the party. Julie Willsie is making her “cheers” from one of her customary work positions – on board a creeper ready to inspect a commercial vehicle. Bridge Area Manager Doug MacKay was with the group in spirit, even though he was called away.

The second anniversary saluted was Administrative Assistant Dianne Young’s 40 years since being featured in the Road Runner. Dianne began work in the ministry in 1972. A year later, she appeared in the July 1973 edition of our employee newsletter. Fast forward 40 years and she’s still smiling!

CVSE toasted to Road Runner’s 50th anniversary, in Dawson Creek.

Dianne Young celebrating 40 years since her first appearance in Road Runner.

CVSE Inspector Donates a Kidney, Saves Two Lives

Submitted by Terry Stacey, wife of CVSE Inspector Jim Stacey

Editor’s Note: Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) Inspector Donald Allenby contacted Jim Stacey’s spouse Terry, to report this story.

The “end” was apparent and then the “beginning” began...

When CVSE Inspector Jim Stacey, who works at the Kamloops scales, found out that his sister-in-law, Charlene, was close to the end of her journey because of diabetes, he stepped up to the plate without hesitation. The disease had claimed her leg and two years of dialysis were draining all that she had left to survive.

Without a kidney transplant, the end was looming for Charlene. Jim was adamant and positive that he could help her, and so he began. Jim and Charlene endured a year of testing only to discover that Charlene’s cells were aggressive and would not permit Jim’s cells to merge with hers. This didn’t deter Jim – he was bound and determined to do anything within his power to give Charlene the gift of life.

After researching the pair exchange program with the Kidney Organ Transplant Foundation, James encouraged Charlene to consider this option and not give up. The program facilitates living kidney donations between patients with a willing but incompatible donor, and other pairs in the same situation.

Six months later, the phone call was received.

Jim and Charlene were paired up with two people in similar circumstances and the cross tissue was a perfect match.

On Nov. 27, Jim, Charlene and two other people all gave or received the gift of life. After four hours of surgery on each person, the miracle was complete. Jim had a rocky recovery with a reaction to the adhesive bandages used following the surgery. Two weeks after the surgery, he developed massive acute blood clots, which endangered his life. After eight days of hospitalization, medical staff stabilized his condition and he was released on Christmas Eve to begin his recovery at home.

Charlene is now dialysis free; her kidney is working well and a new life has been given to her. Jim not only sacrificed his kidney, he made it possible to give life to two other people. His doctors and family say, “He deserves a medal…he is our hero.” The words “thank you” are just not enough to express gratitude for his depth of giving.

Thanks to the medical team, friends, coworkers and family who were there for us. The support was incredible and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

As of mid-February, Donald Allenby says Jim Stacey is still at home recovering from after surgery complications. We wish him a speedy recovery and safe return to work in the near future.

Jim Stacey, from May 2012 Road Runner.
In Service Area 15 (based out of Kamloops) we are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a successful and well-respected road and bridge maintenance contractor, Argo Road Maintenance (Thompson) Inc. The company is currently completing the 11th year of its contract term and continually delivers superior service to our ministry, stakeholders and road users.

The valued partnership between Argo and ministry staff, in the Thompson service area, is a strong and trusting working relationship built on a solid foundation of mutual respect. An excellent example of this is the successful completion of repairs, in November, on the Vavenby Bridge, just off of Highway 5 North.

The Vavenby Bridge is a single-lane Howe truss bridge that was built in 1949. It has a travel length of 111 metres over the North Thompson River, with two 36.6-metre trusses, in addition to approach spans. Aside from the ministry’s regular maintenance program, the last major repair on the bridge was in 1995, when the bridge deck was replaced, main trusses were reinforced and a sidewalk was installed on the downstream side.

A detailed bridge inspection indicated that the Vavenby Bridge required repair work to be completed prior to winter, so that the structure could continue to safely support legal axle loading. This repair was an immediate priority as the bridge connects an important haul route to several local sawmills. With a tight window to work in, Argo Bridge Foreman Duke Piquette and ministry Bridge Area Manager Bill Glen quickly went into action to plan and purchase supplies.

Technical expertise was contributed by our ministry’s Regional Bridge Structural Engineer Bill Becker, and the valuable Howe truss experience of Argo (South Okanagan) Senior Bridge Foreman Mark Stahl was recruited.

Winter weather was already upon us, and the task of replacing seven diagonal bracings (7.3 metres in length), swapping out 20 tension rods and ordering/receiving all supplies in time to safely complete the works was a difficult feat, with a multitude of challenges. In particular, deck configurations with truss members below the deck were combined with steep embankments on approaches, imposing serious access issues for the bridge repair crew.

Being acutely attuned to safety precautions was paramount, when carrying in materials, using built walkways and hiking the embankments on potentially icy slopes. The bridge deck was about 18 metres above the icy waters, so a rescue boat and fall protection were required for the crews. Now add -22 C temperatures, and still the bridge crews safely persisted through the hazardous demands this project presented.

After 19 working days, between Nov. 3 and 28, the project came to a close, with only one work stoppage due to extreme cold temperatures. With several sighs of relief, proud and hearty handshakes and acknowledgement all around, the job was concluded and deemed a success!

There is no doubt that one of the key elements in the delivery of this project was exceptional partnership between ministry operational employees and Argo Thompson staff. The ministry conducted ongoing communications with industry and residential stakeholders about bridge closures, and work crews accommodated local residents by adjusting closure times at the last minute, when needed. The expertise of all individuals was drawn upon, and most noteworthy were the bridge crews working through extreme temperatures, while all project team members, ministry employees and Argo staff, ensured the crew’s safety through the project’s duration.

A big thanks and “shout out” goes to Argo’s Duke Piquette and our ministry’s Bill Glen, for their shared commitment to getting the job done in a timely way, which was essential to the successful completion of the Vavenby Bridge repairs. This project is an excellent example of how Argo’s team works in partnership with our ministry to provide well-planned, innovative and cost-effective services that maintain and improve safe and efficient roads in the Thompson area.
After nearly a two-year hiatus on face-to-face meetings, the Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) met Nov. 5 to 7, in Richmond. This was an excellent opportunity to get reconnected and recharged as a team, before re-imagining the work of this forum that has a long history in our ministry.

The EAF realized it was time to re-imagine what is possible and consider how to leverage our strengths and Lean our processes. With heavy workloads and an evolving workplace, what better time to reshape the current EAF structure and help drive us into the future? This face-to-face meeting provided the perfect backdrop to plan, discuss and collaborate.

The meeting opened with the EAF Leadership gathering in the morning to discuss the new structure and future focus for the EAF. Later that day, a group of eager new EAF members received an action-packed orientation.

Thursday morning (respectively) to an excited crowd who were eager to hear from the senior leaders. Not only did Grant and Norm provide ministry updates, they discussed their experiences with the EAF, the re-imagining of the forum, and where they would like the see the EAF focus its efforts in the near future.

During those three days, EAF members strapped on pedometers to keep up with our TransAction teams. Collectively they logged 230,885 steps in just three days – that’s more than 28 kilometres!

By the end of the gathering, the room was filled with excitement and anticipation about what the future of the EAF could bring. Specifically, you’ll now see a few big changes to the EAF:

- The EAF has increased focus on its “advisory” role (e.g. consultation activities and EAF focus groups) and mini-projects that are tightly concentrated in scope.

What’s next for the EAF? The full EAF membership will meet more frequently (via web technology) to discuss project ideas and how it can help improve the workplace for all of us. And, you’ll continue to see all those terrific EAF articles in each edition of the Road Runner!

With the continued dedication of its highly motivated membership, this is an exciting time for the EAF. Check the EAF website for more information on the changes.

Look for these exciting projects – brought to you by your EAF – coming soon:

- Driving Engagement Guides for Employees
- I Am Transportation Profiles
- Did You Know? Profiles Pay and Benefits
- Career Development Profiles

Leanne Helkenberg, Leeanne Jones and Leanne Garand pose for their group Leanne/Leanne “I Am Transportation” photo.
Lyndsay Molcan is a business management coordinator in the Business Management Services Branch. Her daily responsibilities include managing DriveBC feedback, providing support and training for employees who enter road conditions into DriveBC, leading analysis related to new DriveBC features, working closely with the DriveBC technical team to deal with any bugs and ensuring the site effectively serves the people who use it.

The opportunity to communicate with DriveBC users and stakeholders is hugely rewarding. Not only does she get a better understanding of how DriveBC is making a positive difference in the lives of our travelling public, she makes note of issues and suggestions that help guide the continued enhancement of DriveBC.

Lyndsay Molcan challenges herself to take on new positions, and enjoys asking questions and learning from others.

Lyndsay's first job with the B.C. government dates back six years ago, as an administrative assistant in the Ministry of Health. Over the years, she has held a number of different administrative roles within deputy minister offices in two ministries, until finally landing here at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure where she took on the role of senior executive assistant to the deputy minister. Looking to challenge herself further, she joined the Business Management Services team.

Lyndsay's continued education, and skills developed in the private and public sector, have supported her career growth and her willingness to embrace new challenges along her career path. Next on her list of learning objectives, are enhanced project management skills, because as Lyndsay notes, "Almost everything we do in this ministry is related to a project."

When asked "What three decisions or steps that you've taken have been the most important to your career?" Lyndsay responded:

1. Never be afraid to ask questions. I asked so many questions when I joined the B.C. government, my supervisor eventually tasked me with developing a training manual for incoming administrative staff.

2. Challenging myself and applying on positions that I initially thought might be out of my league. Every new job you tackle should be a challenge and therefore a learning opportunity.

3. Learning from others. I have been very lucky to have a number of peers who were willing to answer my curious questions about our organization and the processes we follow every day. You would be amazed by the information you can extract from your nearby colleagues. If you don't ask, you will never find out!

Lyndsay has jumped at every job shadowing opportunity she has ever been given. This is a great way to expand your skill set and try on a job for size and fit. Lyndsay thrives in a team environment. She is always providing constructive feedback to her colleagues and looking for ways to teach others while learning from them at the same time. It is no wonder that her favourite inspirational saying is, "Be the change that you want to see."

Lyndsay recently became engaged to the man of her dreams! She is planning a wedding for fall 2014, so if you have any tips for her, she is all ears. She loves to spend some of her spare time cooking, baking, decorating, reading and doing Zumba! Check out her full profile at EAF Career Development Profiles.

EAF Says Goodbye to Jeanne Reeves

Jeanne Reeves, acting regional financial analyst, started with the Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) three years ago on Team Appreciation. Six months later, she took on the leadership role within her team and never looked back!

Now, after three years of raising awareness of employee benefits, improving the quality of recognition in the ministry and being a stellar role model for teamwork, Jeanne’s EAF tenure has come to an end.

In December, I sat down with Jeanne to gather her perspective on her time with the EAF.

What was a highlight moment from your time in the EAF?

Jeanne Reeves was a team lead for the EAF’s Team Appreciation for close to three years.

Can you tell us about the last project that you worked on with the EAF?

In December, I sat down with Jeanne to gather her perspective on her time with the EAF.

The EAF Recognition Calendar. Even though my term was up, I wanted to see this project to the end. This calendar is amazing – it allows all of us to take notice and recognize our colleagues across the province, not just in our working groups.

What comes to mind first is finishing the Benefit Blurb Library and getting it published. Some employees had said they were concerned about how to find information about their benefits. I feel it’s really important for people to know where to go to access some of that information.

More on Page 9...
Employees Answer the Activity Challenge – TransAction 2013
Submitted by David Retzer and Ryan Oakley, EAF Members

During October and November, 215 employees from across the ministry took part in the TransAction Healthy Workplace Challenge, brought to our workplace by the Employee Advisory Forum (EAF). Teams of up to five were formed and people from all corners of the province laced up their running shoes, put on their bike helmets or swim caps and started logging activity minutes. Right from the start, competition was fierce with last year’s TransAction champion, Team Trans Wars, giving the rest of the competitors a run for their money. An impressive amount of activity was undertaken by all participants, with the average person exercising for 52 minutes each day.

To add to the excitement, there was a four-way race between HQ and the regions, to rack up the highest average daily minutes of exercise per person. Overall, HQ had the largest total; however the numbers were impressive all around.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average Daily Minutes Per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Interior</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the end, it was the team titled Perpetual Commotion, comprised of Jesse Schultz, Jean Bishop, Mike Boissonneault, Steve Drew and James Hill, that edged out last year’s winners.

TransAction is a fun way to stay motivated in fitness while enjoying some friendly competition. Each year, the EAF looks to improve the challenge, and this year’s major changes included customizable team names, recording of different exercise intensities, and running the competition by region. Let’s hope that the TransAction challenge returns again! Thank you everyone for getting active and participating.

The EAF Says Goodbye and Thank You to David Retzer
Submitted by Nick Nixon, HR Planner, Internal Communications

At 447 Columbia Street in Kamloops, you will find David Retzer, a project information officer and former EAF member, working feverishly and helping one of his colleagues with a problem. (Admittedly, that’s often me).

David spends a lot of his day developing business cases to receive capital funding for projects. He also works on analysis and prediction models for road projects, does photography and videography throughout the Southern Interior Region, and for the past three years, has been a substantial force for positive change as an EAF member.

During David’s tenure with the EAF, he helped bring a number of exciting and beneficial tools and programs to the ministry. Probably the best known is the recently concluded and popular TransAction Healthy Workplace Challenge, for which David served as project manager for two years.

Even though David’s three-year term as an EAF member has come to an end, he looks back with fond memories. David became involved in the EAF because of a vacancy left by a retired colleague and he chose to join Team Balancing Act.

David Retzer put his passion for health and work/life balance into his EAF contributions.

“I thought it would be a great opportunity,” says David. “I’m personally interested and passionate about work/life balance and health and well-being. So, I want to do anything that I can to spread the word about the benefits of being active and to help people get more active.”

While writing this article, I asked David for a highlight from his time with the EAF. He pondered for a moment, and then quickly responded with, “The face-to-face meetings. The chance to get together with like-minded, passionate people from across the province and brainstorm ways to make this a better place to work is one of the most rewarding experiences I could ask for. Well, that and when TransAction first launched in 2012.

The best way to describe the EAF when people ask is just one word: passionate. That’s also my advice to new members — find a project that really interests you both personally and professionally and be involved, be passionate.”

After three years of full-on involvement with the EAF, David is passing the torch to the next EAF member; but I doubt his enthusiasm for improving the workplace will stop then.

Thank you, David, for your enthusiastic contributions as an EAF member.
I understand that at the fall 2013 meeting, a number of those fantastic “Did You Know?” profiles were completed by the EAF. For those that don’t know, what exactly is a “Did You Know?” profile?

It’s a first-hand account from an employee who has used a BC Public Service benefit. It helps employees learn about our benefits and how to use them. Stay tuned, because we have a whole bunch of new “Did You Know?” profiles coming soon!

If you could think of one word to describe the EAF, what would it be?

“Inclusive.” If I had two words, I would add “fun.”

What type of skills did you develop as an EAF Team Lead?

I definitely developed leadership skills. I also learned how to hold a productive meeting successfully. It has been so helpful in my current and previous ministry positions. I’m kind of a shy person by nature, so being an EAF member and team lead really pushed me out of my comfort zone. I was a nervous wreck when I first held meetings; now I look forward them.

You’re a huge proponent of the EAF. Why do you believe it’s such an important group within the ministry?

People need to be informed. They need to know about career development, health and well-being, benefits and where we’re going as an organization; the EAF gives people a channel to discover that. It brings people together from different working groups from across the province – all with a common goal of making this a better place to work.

If you could provide one piece of advice to a new member of the EAF, what would it be?

Get involved. Participate in whatever projects you are interested in – you can truly make a difference.

Do you have any final thoughts for Road Runner readers?

The EAF has been a wonderful experience, and I will truly miss being a part of it. For anyone who is interested in filling out an application to become an EAF member, I’m happy to answer any questions that you may have.
Show off the Plow Pairs Safety and Fun
Submitted by Bonnie Greenwood, District Services Manager

On Oct. 11, kids played, climbed on and painted the blades and wings of three fully equipped tandem axle plow trucks and one grader, in Golden. Why?

Because HMC’s Division Manager Greg Ehman returned from the B.C. Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association conference and quickly took action on the association’s new “Show off the Plow” campaign. The winter community outreach program, geared toward Grades 1 to 3, invites parents and children to see snow plow sander trucks up close, ask questions, climb up into the plow and gain a new appreciation for the equipment that keeps our roads clear during winter.

It’s intended to draw community attention to safety issues faced by snow plow operators that affect everyone. What better place to start than with children and teachers?

At Lady Grey Elementary school, Greg and his team shared some thoughts on keeping safe around snow plows. They talked about building snow forts and tunnels well away from roads, where to stand while waiting for the school bus, and why it is important to make eye contact with the snow plow driver.

And then the fun started, as kids equipped with paint tins and brushes, created masterpieces on the plows. The art work was highly imaginative and each plow received its own special design. Operations Manager Art McClean said, “At the end of a full day of painting, the plows completed two laps around the school grounds, blowing horns and flashing lights, to the roar of the entire school.”

HMC attended Golden’s other two elementary schools that month, delivering snow plow sessions to about 300 students in total. No doubt, these children have gained some appreciation of snow plow equipment and the people who operate it.

Painted blade portrays terrain for plowing around Golden.
Celebrating Long Service with 79 Employees

Submitted by Michelle Hilton, Strategic Human Resources, Project Support

The Long Service Awards are an opportunity to recognize individuals for their 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and, incredibly, 50 years of dedication and commitment to the BC Public Service. Every year, Long Service Awards ceremonies are held at Government House, in Victoria. This year, our ministry’s ceremony date was Nov. 7, and we were delighted to welcome Minister Todd Stone to the pre-reception where he shared some memories with the recipients and their guests.

Our ministry’s remarkable group of 79 recipients has contributed an outstanding 2,455 years of service combined. Thank you for your dedication, your contributions and your excellence.

Congratulations to our 2013 award recipients:

**Twenty-five-year recipients**

Marijanka Bratanovic
Debra Patricia Derkson
Leslie Elder
Bonnie Fadden
Marni Fedoruk
Gerald Frank Froese
Grant C. Herman
Greg Humphrey
Susan Marie Jones
Elizabeth C. Keam
Alan Kennedy
Carol Magee
Pat Marhauer
Terri Lynn Marsters

Pamela McDermid
Susan Nagy
Deborah Newby
Lynda Marie Petruzzelli
Kirk Bradley Rockerbie
Greg Shea
Elizabeth Joy Sherwood
Bill Sparkes
Bob Steele
Grant Morgan Watson
Julie Willies
Richard Wiltshire
Jeff Wiseman

**Thirty-year recipients**

Kay Bamford
Richard Garth Blixrud
Murray Foster Campbell
Bill Eisbrenner
Lenora Fillion
Bob Gourley
Donna Jean Isherwood
Philip C. Mak
John Mackay
Terry MacKay
Ron Marshall
Robert Charles McFadden
Mike Odowichuk
Norm Parkes
Mark Pratt
David Wayne Prehara
Bill Szto

**Thirty-five-year recipients**

Brian Barker
David Kirk Bentley
Maria Braden
Glenn W. Callander
Keith Callander
Janet Gail Colussi
Stuart Cox
Paul Alexander Eftodie
Len Folkard
Jon Christian Jensen
Douglas Kenneth Kidd
Tina Kulchyski
Tom Lupton
Rick Matthews
Ivana Mazuch
Deborah Miller
Larry Park
Randall Douglas Penner
Bob Petho
John L. Reddin
William David Rose
Larry James Rowe
Robert Ross Stephen
Christopher Thornhill
Clayton Tomas
Brian Twiname
Adrian Vander-Velden
Don Ware

**Forty-year recipients**

Allan Roy Edgar
M. Dorian Gregory
Ernie Gross
Kenneth Lukawesky
Dirk Nyland
Joe Peterson

**Fifty year recipient**

Len Murray Romanow

Maria Braden (right), with her husband, Randy Braden, was a speaker at the event.

“Having only 25 years of service under my belt and all with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, I was a “first timer” at the Long Service Awards dinner and quickly recognized that I was in esteemed company. Having heard the stories of ministry staff moving from one end of the province to another many times with their families, and of the staying power and family support that they had to do so, made me feel privileged to work with such people and understand the role of family in making this ministry what it is. I’m looking forward to being a second timer with many of the friends I have made over the years at our ministry.”

“Having only 25 years of service under my belt and all with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, I was a “first timer” at the Long Service Awards dinner and quickly recognized that I was in esteemed company. Having heard the stories of ministry staff moving from one end of the province to another many times with their families, and of the staying power and family support that they had to do so, made me feel privileged to work with such people and understand the role of family in making this ministry what it is. I’m looking forward to being a second timer with many of the friends I have made over the years at our ministry.”

“The Long Service Awards events are very special but last year’s is truly memorable for me. Not only was I celebrating 35 years of service but I also had the honour of speaking on behalf of the recipients. When you walk up to receive your award, you look out over a sea of familiar faces; people that you have worked with for many years. You feel an enormous sense of pride and fulfillment. It is the one time when all your hard work, dedication and loyalty are recognized in such a big way and you feel an enormous sense of pride and fulfillment.”

Kirk Rockerbie marked 25 years of service, accompanied by his partner, Deborah Young.
Time for a Twitter Town Hall
Submitted by Russel Lolacher, Web and Social Media Director

Over the last few months, our ministry has been conducting the safety and speed review, getting input from the public around such topics as provincial highway speeds, winter tires, wildlife collisions and slow-moving vehicles. As part of this consultation, a “Twitter town hall” was planned to engage with the public on social media.

Now, I’ve been involved in Twitter chats or “town halls” quite a few times, either as a guest or a participant, but I hadn’t run one for our ministry before, much less with the Minister. Well that changed on Dec. 17 when Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone, Highways ADM Dave Duncan, Southern Interior Region Director Mike Lorimer, Chief Traffic Engineer Ed Miska, Social Media Writer/Researcher Neil Judson and I all gathered one room, in Vancouver. Also from the web and social media team, were Kristen Reimer and James Penner who signed onto Twitter, from their homes in Victoria. They monitored for discussions that happened outside the town hall that needed to be addressed later.

First though, I should probably explain what a Twitter town hall is. Here’s a breakdown:

- It’s a live, online discussion around a particular topic, represented by a “hashtag”. In this case, the topic/hashtag was #BCSpeedReview.
- It’s held over a pre-determined timeframe – almost always an hour – and usually from 7 to 8 p.m. (after dinner-ish).
- It’s moderated and usually includes a guest who is the expert on the topic. In this case, the ministry Twitter account hosted the event, while Minister Stone provided information, answered questions and asked participants for their thoughts on the topic.
- Any questions not addressed in the 60 minutes allocated were collected and followed up with by the social media group.

The week leading up to the event, we put out some heavy promotion on Twitter, a TranBC blog and posts on TranBC’s Facebook page to let the public know of the town hall. Our information was passed along by 88 Twitter users (including News1130 and Today’s Trucking) who sent out 177 tweets, potentially reaching 261,489 people (based on the followers of each Twitter account).

On Dec. 17, equipped with our plan, three laptops, a projector and screen, and stationed in a room with a few stale chocolate croissants, left over fruit from somebody else’s meeting, and a jug of water, we got started. And it was a lot of fun.

Neil handled the hosting duties by facilitating discussion, sharing photos of the event and monitoring the time; Minister Todd Stone, supported by ministry staff, kept up with responding to the questions; and I had the pleasure of steering it all, sharing suggestions and best practices and linking up with my team off-site.

By the numbers, the safety and speed Twitter town hall attracted 64 participants, received 508 #BCSpeedReview tweets, and potentially reached 36,642 people online. With the amount of promotion the Twitter town hall had, I’m guessing there were probably many people who watched but didn’t participate in the conversation. (Unfortunately we can’t measure spectators.)

The team did a great job for our inaugural Twitter town hall, and the Minister was thrilled. So, with the success of this engagement session for the safety and speed review, we’re looking forward to getting behind any future town halls.

We’re looking for stories and photos for the May RoadRunner.

Please email them to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca
Restoring Fish Habitat Along Vancouver Island Highways
Submitted by Kaitie Sly, Engineering Branch

I was fortunate enough to spend the past several months documenting restoration work being led on Vancouver Island, by Sean Wong in the Environmental Management Section.

With programs like the Environmental Enhancement Fund and the Culvert Retrofit Program, the team has been working long hours to restore salmon and trout habitat that has been damaged from past human activity. But why spend so much time and effort to protect just a couple of animal species?

Well, salmon and trout are actually considered “keystone species,” which means that these fish have a huge impact on the rest of the ecosystem. They provide food for eagles, seagulls, ravens, ducks and other birds, as well as bears, wolves, invertebrates (i.e. crayfish), amphibians and more! Since salmon are residents of both fresh and salt water, they play a key role in both ecosystems as well. And when they die, their remains provide nutrients to the forests and to their newly hatched fry.

But Pacific salmon, named B.C.’s provincial fish in 2013, are also extremely important to our recreational and cultural activities. It’s hard to beat the taste of a fresh-caught Coho. And without a healthy number of salmon and trout in our waters, we can say goodbye to our recreational fishing activities too...

Historically, migratory fish passage and environmental protection were not really considered when constructing things like culverts underneath highways. In the case of a culvert at Oliver Creek in Youbou, the culvert outlet drop, length and gradient were essentially a fish passage barrier for about 50 years, preventing Coho salmon and trout from accessing high quality habitat. Weirs have been constructed downstream of the culvert to eliminate this outlet drop, so that fish could once again swim from the creek into the culvert. Metal plates that stand 35 centimetres high were installed and oriented perpendicular to the flow of water in the culvert, to increase culvert water depths and slow the water’s velocity, enabling fish to then migrate through.

Nowadays, there is a lot more environmental legislation, and stewardship practices that ensure the environment is considered before and throughout a highway development and construction project. But for past oversights, the Environmental Management Section will be in the field, putting in their best effort to help ensure that everywhere our provincial roads exist, habitat and valued ecosystems are sustainably managed and restored.
What's the Magic Word?
Submitted by Tracy Houser, Assistant Director and Engagement Lead, Strategic Human Resources

Many of us remember our parents reminding us over and over as youngsters, "What's the magic word?" Eventually we learned that "please" was indeed very powerful. Flash forward a decade (or two, three or four) and you will find that the team in Strategic Human Resources (SHR) has discovered the magic goes beyond that simple query.

When our clients come to us with a request, the question is not "What's the magic word?" but "Which magic word?" Are we able to partner, connect or recommend? Depending on the situation we are able to partner with our client which means working with you to solve challenges and provide strategic human resources every step of the way. Other times we connect by linking you up to the people and places that will provide you with exactly what you need. And sometimes, the magic happens when we recommend – mapping your resources so that you can use the right tools for any job.

Would you like to know more about what we do? We have developed an easy reference SHR Services Guide to outline our four core services (workforce planning, engagement, organizational development, and corporate liaison and initiatives), how we work and who does what (is it SHR or MyHR?).

In the fall, Halloween celebrations allowed us to have a little fun with our theme of magic. Imagine the magic words partner, connect and recommend as the accompanying chant to the recipe below....

MyPerformance Pie
Recipe by Kimberly Newton, Assistant Manager, Strategic Human Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crust</th>
<th>Filling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many great conversations</td>
<td>SMAART (specific, measurable, achievable, aligned, result-focused and timely) work goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sets of thoughtful expectations</td>
<td>Purposeful development goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 open minds</td>
<td>Thoughtful, constructive feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A dash of passion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A pinch of curiosity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A sprinkle of teamwork</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenty of accountability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A spoonful of service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A dollop of courage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stew over a year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Put the filling in the crust and serve often!

A Memorable Christmas for Highway Thru Hell's Biggest Fan
Submitted by Jennifer Powers, Area Development and Operations Technician

Christmas miracles can come true – just ask James*, who lives in Chilliwack.

This year, Christmas was extra special for James who is a person with disabilities. James is the brother of Jackie*, a team and contract lead at the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, with whom I play volleyball on Wednesday nights.

One evening after a game, Jackie and I were discussing Christmas and family when the subject of Jackie’s brother, James, came up. Jackie told me that James was a die-hard fan of the Discovery Channel television series Highway Thru Hell, and moreover, James is a super fan of the show’s star, Jamie Davis. Highway Thru Hell is a reality show chronicling the work of Jamie Davis Motor Truck, a heavy vehicle rescue and recovery towing company based out of Hope.

The show, which focuses on the hardships Jamie and his crew deal with on the Coquihalla and Fraser Highways, has led to several Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure employees getting their 15 minutes of fame. To demonstrate James’ love for the show, Jackie called her brother on speaker phone and asked him who he would rather meet... Michael Jordan or Jamie Davis. He chose the latter – a true fan!

Coincidentally, Jamie Davis had been in the Chilliwack office where I work, that very morning, to discuss his efforts on provincial highways, and he left us with a few promotional items. I thought to myself, that at the very least, I could pass along some Highway Thru Hell memorabilia to make someone truly happy.

Then, the following day I had an idea and enlisted the help of my colleague, Bridge Area Manager Doug Wilson. Doug is a big guy with a big heart and he jumped at the chance to further brighten James’ Christmas Day. Doug made a quick phone call to Jamie Davis’ office and it was all set. James was going to meet Jamie Davis and have a full tour of his shop!

*Last name withheld on request.

More on Page 17...
CVSE Appreciation in Agassiz  
Submitted by Cindy Hogg, Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Supervisor

Hope Area Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) inspectors were pleased to participate in the fifth annual Peace Officer Appreciation Lunch, hosted by the All Saints Anglican Church in Agassiz, on Nov. 3.

The CVSE employees joined local RCMP and CP Police at the morning church service, then were led into the church hall by the bagpipe-playing members of the Harrison Highlanders, to enjoy a delicious lunch. Thank you to Rev. Dave Price, volunteer Leroy Burden and all the other volunteers with the church, for honouring our employees.

The group at the All Saints Anglican Church always do the event up right. This year they even obtained a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper who extended greetings to everyone in attendance, and wrote, “It takes a special person to shoulder the responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of their fellow citizens.”

The cake featured the logo of CVSE and other enforcement agencies.

CVSE inspectors outside the All Saints Anglican Church: Kevin Cook, Leo Belanger, Kirstin Roscoe, Cindy Hogg and Larry Ness.

Fundraiser Completes Cross-Canada Run at Mile 0  
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

On the frigid fourth day of February, a few people from the social media team at HQ strolled down the street to Mile 0 of the Trans-Canada Highway, to welcome a long-distance traveller.

Jamie McDonald of Gloucester, England, was completing his cross-Canada run, and we were jazzed that his last stretch was Pat Bay Highway #17, southbound from the ferry terminal. (Jamie had planned to end his run in Vancouver, but he was persuaded by a fan to continue onto Victoria).

Wearing his 13th pair of runners, a worn cape and a big smile, Jamie approached the Terry Fox monument and the Mile 0 sign. After leaving St. John’s on March 9, 2013, he had accomplished his goal of running more than 5,000 miles, un-assisted, to raise money for children’s hospitals in Canada and Britain!

Jamie received hugs and gifts from a small group of admirers then decided to immerse his feet in the waters off Victoria. While the day was decidedly cold (the fountain in front the Legislative Assembly was frozen) Jamie rolled up his pant legs, and calmly stood in the ocean while he made a short speech, saying he wanted the fundraising to continue. Our James (Penner) captured the moment on video for posting on TranBC’s Facebook page.

As a child, Jamie spent much of his first nine years hospitalized, due to an immune deficiency, epilepsy and a rare spinal condition. His experiences have motivated his fundraising feats, which include cycling 22,530 kilometres from Bangkok to Gloucester. “I’m hopeful that my run has and will inspire people to know that we can do whatever we put our mind to,” Jamie says on his website.

A video of Jamie’s run over the Coquihalla Summit shows some of the determination his trek took, as he receives a face full of salty, dirty slush from a passing maintenance contractor truck, in overcast, sloppy weather. Jamie traversed the country pushing his belongings in a jogging stroller, and was offered lodgings, food and other help (including replacement runners) along the way.

“Even though I had no support team, I felt like Canada was right behind me, every step of the way.”

Nancy McLeod and fundraising runner Jamie McDonald, after Jamie dips his feet in the ocean.

Jamie (in red cap) a few steps away from Mile 0.

Nancy McLeod and fundraising runner Jamie McDonald, after Jamie dips his feet in the ocean.
Eight Amazing PECSF Events at South Coast Region Office
Submitted by Alison Roach, Business Management Assistant

During last October and November, about 160 employees at the South Coast Regional office, in Coquitlam, participated in campaigning and a jam-packed week of fundraising activities for the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF).

A small group of dedicated organizers, led by regional Business Management Services Manager Chantelle Gergley, and comprised of Loretta Carlson, Susan Cunningham, Sheila Hui, Joseph Kwan, Caroline Murphy and Alison Roach, orchestrated a variety of activities to get our employees involved in giving. Events included coffee breaks, lunchtime bingo, a bake sale, an online quiz, a guessing contest, and a chili cook-off featuring members of our Regional Management Team.

Throughout the fundraising campaign, tickets were available for a raffle of fun baskets assembled by all the teams in the building. Our teams got creative, putting together the baskets with prizes ranging in theme from “Movie Night” to “Adult Night.” A 50/50 raffle was also organized, and draws for both raffles were held on the final day of the campaign, Nov 29. Together, the raffles raised $440.

Of all our activities, the chili cook-off was by far the most popular, giving staff a chance to see our team leaders put on their aprons and test their spicing finesse. Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Assistant Regional Manager Cole Delisle walked away with the top prize for his Moroccan chili. Other notable entries included Regional Deputy Director Derek Drummond’s gluten-free chili and Chantelle Gergley’s vegetarian variety. The lunchtime event raised nearly $250 for the fund.

Another big hit in the office was the day-long bake sale. Participants brought in homemade baked goods that were available for purchase in the office’s shared lunch room. A fan favourite were the miniature cheesecakes made by Regional Director Patrick Livolsi. At the beginning of the day, our counter was overflowing with goodies, and by the end of it only crumbs remained.

Patrick congratulated the organizing team on the success of the fundraising campaign, saying, “I would like all the SCR staff to join me in acknowledging and thanking the PECSF organizing team for their dedication and excellent work in coordinating this year’s events. You should all be proud of the work you did in raising funds for a very worthwhile cause!” In total, the South Coast Regional office raised $1,179.25 for PECSF.
**Northern Region’s Loonie Drive Supports Literacy**

Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Regional Manager, Business Services

As a follow-up to Public Service Week, the Northern Region office held a Loonie Drive to raise funds to assist two schools in the Prince George area. The event was skillfully directed by Administrative Assistant Hilda McNeill. In total, $400 was raised, and each school was given $200. In mid-November, our office received a thank you note from one of the schools. It read:

> Dear Hilda McNeill & Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure,

> Peden Hill staff and students would like to extend a thank you for your donation of $200 that was raised during your 2013 Public Service Week. We truly appreciate any support from the community that assists with student learning. To support our literacy program, Peden Hill is working toward purchasing a class set of Kindle Readers, and the money you raised went toward achieving this goal.

> Thank you again.

> Kelly Johansen

> Principal

> On behalf of Peden Hill staff and students

As it turns out, four Kindles (portable electronic devices used for reading e-books and periodicals) were purchased for the students. This demonstrates that while the school probably needs between 25 and 30 of the devices for a class set, our contribution did make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Loonie Drive, with special thanks to Hilda McNeill for leading this fundraiser to give back to the community.

---

**Community Events**

**A Memorable Christmas for Highway Thru Hell’s Biggest Fan**... Continued from Page 14

I gave James’ sister, Jackie, the news and she was elated. She would reveal the special gift to her brother on Christmas morning. This year would be better than all the rest.

Jackie told me, “Finally we can give him something he really wants!”

You see, every year for Christmas, Jackie gives James a silver bracelet and a watch. “It’s what he wants,” she says. “If we gave him anything else he would be disappointed.”

Well not this year. On Christmas morning, James opened his gifts and as usual was very happy with his new watch and bracelet; but there was another gift – a special gift! Watch James’ astonished reaction on the short video below to see one thrilled person. (You’re almost guaranteed to smile!) Shortly after the recording stopped, James cried he was so overwhelmed.

![Hilda McNeill with card from Peden Hill Elementary school expressing thanks for employee donations.](image)

> It’s wonderful that ministry employees, in conjunction with Jamie Davis Motor Truck and the Discovery Channel, could bring so much joy to someone. It is these kinds of things that make you feel good about your job and your co-workers. Watch for an update on James’ tour in the next issue of Road Runner.

![Hilda McNeill with card from Peden Hill Elementary school expressing thanks for employee donations.](image)

![Hilda McNeil with card from Peden Hill Elementary school expressing thanks for employee donations.](image)

![James is astonished by the unique gift.](image)
Ski-in Wedding a Natural in Rocky Mountain District

When Revelstoke Area Manager Jeff Ferguson and Natalie Staff decided to marry, the Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club’s cozy timber-frame lodge seemed the perfect place to exchange vows.

Jeff and Natalie are both members of the club, and Jeff is on the non-profit organization’s executive, serving as director of trails and grooming. So, it was natural for them to book the lodge at Canada’s oldest continually operating ski club (dating back to 1891) for their special day.

On Jan. 11, as the wedding party and guests were poised for the big event inside the lodge, a window of nice weather descended, bringing the possibility of a new venue – outside. Being outdoor enthusiasts, the couple chose to make the most of the unexpectedly balmy (for January) weather and the gorgeous mountain setting. They strapped on their skis, and glided into the al fresco ceremony, to an appreciative crowd. True to form, they stayed in their skis for part of the ceremony.

Congratulations Jeff and Natalie! ♦

Kootenay, the couple’s best furred friend, was the ring bearer.

A mountain of a wedding cake.

The lodge’s covered deck was ideal for a group photo.

Skiing into a delighted crowd of family and friends. Photos courtesy of Keri Knapp Photography
Northern Region Santa and Elves Portray Holiday Fun

Some elves in the Northern Region had fun with a camera, a wood frame and some unusual hats, just before Christmas, in the Prince George office.

Lenora Fillion brought in a photo frame and elf hats with ears. Deanna Ramsey loaned her leopard print Santa hat to Maria Braden, honouring the group’s well-known passion for animal print wear, even through the season of red and green attire.

Maria was named Santa-in-training, ready to backfill for Santa if necessary, to ensure the completion of everything for Christmas 2013 and the start of production for Christmas 2014. There was no doubt that between this stylish Santa and the enterprising (and so cute) elves, all work would be completed at the North Pole, on time and within budget.

Thanks to Deanna Ramsey for sending in the photos.
Hibernation Challenge Meets Festive Decorating
Submitted by Megan Cullinane, Development Approvals Technician, and Dave Retzer, Program Information Officer

The Hibernation Challenge coincided with Christmas tree decorating day, in the Thompson Nicola District, resulting in a splash of festive sweaters, ranging from tasteful to what some might consider tacky. (Ugly sweaters were to be the theme for the decorating event, but perhaps unpleasantness is in the eye of the beholder).

Whatever the attire, everyone dressed warm and cozy to demonstrate that wearing a sweater instead of using a space heater saves money and conserves energy. This was one of the actions suggested for the Hibernation Challenge, Dec. 2 to 11, which encouraged employees to save energy in their workplace by turning off lights when not in use, taking stairs instead of elevators and dressing according to the season.

Cowpoke Parker Accompanies Kyle
A small cowpoke (Parker Drummond) moseyed into the Northern Region office for a little trick or treating, in October. He was accompanied by his father, Kyle Drummond, regional manager of project delivery. The visitor drew admiring attention from Mary Laing and the rest of the posse in Prince George.

Who Are You?
See the value of what you and your co-workers contribute to the big picture of our ministry’s work, at I Am Transportation.

Take a look at some of the inspiring profiles posted, then use this helpful guide to put together your own profile. It’s a great way to learn more about your colleagues and how we each connect with the vision, mission and values of our ministry.

(Brought to you by the Employee Advisory Forum.)