Pemberton Music Festival Resurrected
Submitted by Henry Lew, Traffic Operations Engineer

After a six-year hiatus, the Pemberton Music Festival was successfully resurrected in mid-July. The ministry team worked diligently to solve the major traffic problems that plagued the music festival when it was first held in 2008. We worked closely with the new event organizers HUKA Entertainment and traffic control company BC Road Safe, to keep vehicle traffic moving efficiently along Highway 99, and ensure that the event took place as safely as possible for festival participants and motorists.

More than 75,000 participants attended the five-day festival, held July 16 to 20. The huge influx of festival goers dwarfed Pemberton’s population of about 2,300. Given the large number of attendees, lack of an alternate route to Highway 99, and event travel heavily oriented to and from the south, ministry staff worked hard to develop innovative traffic management strategies to handle the traffic demand.

Changes were made to the music schedule to encourage participants to arrive earlier, over several days, and help stagger departures. Multiple parking areas for the campers were established in Pemberton to handle the peak arrivals and overflow. Additional driveway entrances were constructed along Highway 99 to provide multiple accesses to the music festival and parking areas. The event organizers also constructed two kilometres of roadway (three lanes wide) through an adjacent property to provide up to six kilometres of queue storage for campers arriving in Pemberton, with vehicles.

Day parking was available at Creekside Village in Whistler, and buses shuttled festival goers between Whistler and Pemberton. Temporary “no parking” restrictions were implemented within Pemberton, and illegally parked vehicles were towed to discourage people from driving to Pemberton and attempting to park along roadways.

Contingency plans were developed to respond to major incidents, and included an evacuation plan for the music festival site. Incident management plans were also developed to handle motor vehicle incidents and disabled or illegally parked vehicles along Highway 99.

A comprehensive way finding review plan, using static signs and changeable message signs, was developed to help festival goers find their way to the music festival and navigate around Pemberton.

More on Page 3…
Imagine being part of a five-day social event for 75,000 people, and your job is to make sure all the guests come and go safely... That was the role a team of Lower Mainland District employees had in making the Pemberton Music Festival a big success this summer. Traffic had been a major issue the last time a festival was held there. But, this year’s festival organizer, HUKA Entertainment, jubilantly reported on its website that, “Smooth traffic and one of the world’s most majestic settings welcomed over 75,000 festival patrons …as they enjoyed nearly 100 performances…” Smooth traffic! It’s extremely unusual for traffic management to be highlighted in the second sentence of any announcement. This reference is testimony to our ministry’s positive impact on the social, cultural and economic life of British Columbia. Ministry employees have also been improving the lives of others, outside of their regular work duties. Some got drenched with ice-filled buckets of water to raise money for ALS research, some played ball to support BC Children’s Hospital and others organized a big mountain bike race to feed and educate Ethiopian children. There are also simple to ways to better our world...like sharing the sweet, sad or funny things we learn from strangers. For West Kootenay District’s Ryan Oakley, a picture is worth a thousand words as he captures his encounters with Humans of Nelson on Facebook and his book released earlier this month.

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, writing tips and upcoming deadlines, see Road Runner on TRANnet.

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

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

Graphic design for Road Runner is provided by Kathy Macovichuk.
Pemberton Music Festival Resurrected... Continued from Page 1

Pemberton. Advisory messaging was used before and during the event, to warn the travelling public to expect heavier than normal traffic and plan for travel delays.

A temporary pedestrian bridge was also built over Highway 99, to connect the festival site with the main parking area for campers. This structure eliminated the need for pedestrians to cross Highway 99 which helped improve safety and traffic flow.

Live feeds from highway webcams in Pemberton and Whistler were also used to help monitor traffic along Highway 99. Ministry staff met each morning of the festival with HUKA Entertainment and BC Road Safe to discuss traffic operations and troubleshoot problems that arose.

Planning for the Pemberton Music Festival began in early 2014. Ministry staff, including Traffic Operations Engineer Henry Lew, Special Events Coordinator Holly Adems and Area Manager Jesse Morwood, working collaboratively with HUKA Entertainment, BC Road Safe, Creighton Manning/Delcan Engineering, RCMP, the Village of Pemberton, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and other stakeholders, met over a six-month period to plan the logistics and work through the details for the music festival. The ministry team met monthly with government agencies and stakeholders to keep everyone informed and present solutions to challenging problems. The result was a comprehensive traffic plan which was unanimously supported by all the government agencies and stakeholders.

BC Road Safe, led by Tammy Sampson, was well prepared, had sufficient experienced staff on hand and did an excellent job executing the traffic plan for this event. Traffic volumes were heavier than normal, especially headed southbound on Monday as people returned home; but not any busier than a typical ski weekend. The bus shuttles between Whistler and Pemberton ran smoothly and proved to be a popular way to get to the music festival.

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The Pemberton Music Festival brought an estimated $18 million in economic benefits to Pemberton and nearby communities. Early feedback from the public indicated that the music festival event was favorably received and traffic operations went well. Given its success, the resurrected Pemberton Music Festival is anticipated to occur again next year, and is expected to become an annual event providing recurring economic and cultural benefits to B.C. ◆

A temporary pedestrian bridge was built to keep concert goers clear of highway traffic.

A parking area with scenic Mount Currie in the background.
Ministry Employees Honoured at 2014 Premier’s Awards
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

The BC Highway Webcam Team and seasoned District Manager Todd Hubner were recognized with 2014 Premier’s Awards for Innovation and Excellence, this fall.

The BC Highway Webcam team took top honours in the innovation category at the provincial level, on Oct. 8, in Victoria. At the event hosted by Premier Christy Clark, the team was recognized for its creative and innovative efforts to overcome challenges and provide a webcam system that is widely relied upon for highway safety and mobility. The system has grown from three webcams a decade ago, to webcams in nearly 300 locations. To learn more, view the video created by the Premier’s Awards.

Cariboo District Manager Todd Hubner was honoured with the Top Gold Award in the leadership category for the Interior and North, on Sept. 4. Nicknamed by his colleagues “The Master of Disaster”, Todd was recognized for his swift and skillful response to emergencies, outstanding level of knowledge and commitment, and his contributions as an inspiring and valued leader within our ministry. Watch this video to see Todd and hear from the people he works with including Regional Director Mike Lorimer, District Manager Paula Cousins and Cariboo Regional District Chairman Al Richmond.

In the Lower Mainland, the 2013 Ironman Whistler Organizing Team was a finalist for organizational excellence. The team’s contribution to making the major athletic event a success is showcased in this video.

From this year onward, recipients of the provincial legacy award are also welcomed into the BC Public Service Hall of Excellence – the highest form of recognition that the BC Public Service can extend to its employees. At the Oct. 8 provincial awards, past legacy award recipients were also inducted, including former Highways Assistant Deputy Minister Mike Proudfoot who received the award in 2011.

Now in its tenth year, the Premier’s Awards celebrate the work of outstanding employees whose professionalism, dedication and innovation have made a positive difference to individuals and communities in B.C. The regional awards recognize projects that impact a specific area, while the provincial awards recognize projects that were widely adopted provincially or across multiple regions.

Congratulations to all the Premier’s Awards winners, finalists and nominees.

Cariboo District Manager Todd Hubner was recognized for his seasoned expertise, emergency management talents and skills at building and maintaining respectful relationships.

The BC Public Service offers a variety of health benefits, including one used by almost everyone: vision care.

Did you know, or rather did you see, that your Extended Health Care Plan reimburses you for routine eye examinations every two calendar years? That’s right!

Examinations must be performed by a physician or optometrist, for persons between the ages of 19 and 64 (maximum is $75 per two calendar years). MSP covers routine examinations for those 18 years and under, and 65 years and over.


EAF member Michael Dinney says, “After living with ‘perfect’ eyesight for my entire 37 years on this earth, I came to the realization that my pesky headaches may have a preventable cause. My optometrist confirmed that I was ‘normal for my age,’ which meant I needed reading glasses.

Michael Dinney wears his glasses for which he received some coverage.

It is great to have the examination covered under my Extended Health Care Plan.”

And even more, your Extended Health Care Plan contributes to the purchase and/or repair of corrective eye wear, charges for contact lens fittings and laser eye surgery, when prescribed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist or physician. If your annual deductible has been paid, you will be reimbursed 100 per cent to the plan limit which is a maximum of:

- $250 every 24 months for the employee;
- $250 every 24 months for the employee’s partner; and
- $250 every 12 months for dependent children.

NOTE: Charges for non-prescription eyewear are not covered.


Val Hunsaker’s path to being an area vehicle inspector started when he was a licenced mechanic with the private sector, in Prince George.

If you asked Val 15 years ago what job he thought he’d be doing now, his answer would have been “mechanic.” His current position was not even in his mind. However, Val’s experience as a mechanic and his knowledge of vehicles is a definite asset in his current job.

Val acquired the background for being a vehicle inspector, through his work as a licenced mechanic and by taking the Investigative and Enforcement Skills Program offered by the Justice Institute of British Columbia. He says his most important career decisions have been to pursue an education, and provide some instruction to others within Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement.

Val enjoys mentoring others and teaching. He is one of the province’s instructors of Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance standards used to inspect trucks roadside in North America.

Each year, the province hosts the CVSA Challenge that tests commercial vehicle inspector’s skills in four different types of inspections plus a timed written exam. The winner goes on to compete in the North America Inspectors Challenge. Val has won the B.C. challenge twice, and has represented our province at the North American challenge, in 2012 at Minneapolis, and 2014 in Pittsburgh.

Val says that these events have been some of the best experiences of his career.

What Val likes most about being a vehicle inspector is the variety of each day and having a direct impact on road safety. One day he may audit designated inspection facilities, then stop and inspect trucks roadside to ensure they are mechanically safe and that the driver meets legal requirements, or he may perform post-crash investigations involving commercial vehicles.

For anyone interested in becoming a vehicle inspector, Val recommends a few steps. The first is to job shadow to see what is involved in the work. Second, take some enforcement training. And third, acquire an understanding of different cultures.

In his position, Val comes into contact with a wide array of people who have an assortment of beliefs and values. Many have immigrated from other countries, and they may react differently to enforcement officers. For example, in some cultures, it is standard practice to barter and raise one’s voice. Knowing and understanding cultural backgrounds, helps Val to interact effectively with a diversity of people in the commercial transport industry.

Val is married and enjoys a variety of physical activities such as mountain biking, skiing and climbing. If you are interested in learning more about CVSE or area vehicle inspector work, feel free to contact Val. ✉
EAF member Jean Bishop says, “I found it helpful knowing that my child has the opportunity to visit the optometrist and, if the need arises, receive the necessary eye-care products more frequently than myself.”

Thomas Chhun, who works in the precipitous Lower Mainland, says, “I came to the realization that I needed glasses when I could no longer read the chalkboard in class. This benefit has been very important to me because it allows me to see clearly, especially when the rain stops!”

Long-time employee Svein Haugen says, “I wear prescription eyewear and find that it needs to be renewed every couple of years. The coverage available through the Extended Health Plan helps pay for new glasses.”

DID YOU KNOW?

FACTS ABOUT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Vision Care for Employees Everywhere

…Continued from Page 5

Submitted by Ryan Todd, EAF Member

Did you know that employees can purchase a Lenovo computer at a discounted price?

Imagine upgrading your family’s computer or other equipment at a discount through Lenovo, our corporate supplier of computer stuff. Check back regularly for sales on specific models, at gww.gov.bc.ca/tools/online-store#gear.

Most computers you purchase from any number of local stores are “residential” class systems. Through this discount with Lenovo, you are able to purchase a “corporate class” computer at a discounted rate. These corporate class machines are higher quality. You are also able to order them with Windows 7 as opposed to the default "residential" Windows 8 operating system.
Learn@ Work Week 2014 – Invest in Yourself
Submitted by Tracy Houser, Strategic Human Resources Assistant Director

When I was a kid, I couldn’t wait for school to start in the fall.

Yes, I was one of those crazy kids who loved shopping for new pencil crayons, crisp notebooks, and all the fun learning tools. We lived in the country and by the time September rolled around I had had enough of my sister as a playmate, my imagination for beach adventures was out of fuel (grew up next to Lake Erie), and I was driving my mother crazy. The only downside to all this: having to put new shoes on my feet after an entire summer of barefoot joy.

Ironically, all these years later, the only thing that has changed is I now really like and appreciate new shoes. I still love the idea of a fall schedule, learning new concepts, making new friends, and expanding my mind. And so, when Learn @ Work Week was announced again this year, I leveraged the opportunity to ignite employees’ curiosity across the ministry.

The theme this year was “Invest in Yourself.” Whether it was through an article you read via TRAnnet News Headlines, a Live Meeting you attended about learning tools, a moment where you mentored a peer, some online research, or tackling a new project that required you to think differently – what did you learn that week?

**Live Meetings for Everybody**

With more than 90 employees in attendance at the “Tools Where You Work” Live Meeting, the spirit of curiosity is alive and well here at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

We welcomed two guest speakers to shine a spotlight on some amazing learning resources at our finger tips. Jennifer Butterfield from the Learning Centre shared insights into the new learning system – giving us tips and tricks for searching courses by geographic location, getting supervisor approvals to attend training, and steps for seeking course descriptions. Darlene Gollesch joined us from Ottawa to give us a walk-through of the e-library available as part of our corporate subscription to the Conference Board of Canada. We got the inside scoop on how to sign up for an account (free to all BC Public Service employees), access research papers and watch recorded e-conferences. She also highlighted the unexpected value-added aspect of being able to directly contact researchers at the Conference Board.

**Supervisory Excellence**

Leaders learn too! Our ministry recognizes the value of our more than 350 supervisors. We want to ensure these individuals are encouraged to grow and develop. During this week, our supervisor Live Meeting learning series explored the psychology of change. Check in with your supervisor to see if they participated. They may have some fascinating information about transition, letting go, or VUCA – volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity.

**Tracking your Professional Development – What’s the Point?**

An email went out to all employees to let everyone know who our TRAN Learning Administrators are so we know who to contact to have non-PSA training entered into our professional records. Why? For some it may relate to an on-the-job certification required for their specific position. For others, they find great value in tracking their learning journey on their professional record so they see their progress over time.

Others like to have a copy of their learning record to include in their resume when applying for new positions. Someone once explained that they find the listing is an effective way to keep focused and that it contributes to the big picture of their career experience (the latest lingo is a “career experience” rather than a “career path”). It is your record. What learning do you want to track that will be meaningful for you?

**Walking the Learning Talk**

By the end of the week, my brain was on fire! I had researched inspired leadership for a new issue of the TRAnforming Supervision newsletter, expanded my facilitation skills by delivering an online learning session in partnership with a colleague, hosted a focus group conversation about professional development, attended a webinar on developing leadership, mentored a colleague on a writing project and participated in a face-to-face learning session at St. Ann’s Academy titled, “The Future of HR – Where Are We and How Do We Get There?”

Did I mention how much I love to learn? New shoes not required.

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**UNLEASHING OUR CURIOSITY**

Are you a visual learner?

Are you wondering what’s available in terms of learning opportunities?

Check out our new Learning Journey Poster!
In the Pacific Gateway Branch, we work with other governments and the private sector to ensure that B.C.’s roadways, rail systems, marine ports and airports have the capacity to support increased international trade. For example, a rail overpass improves vehicle traffic flow, eliminates the need for train whistling and allows for longer trains – all of which improve the efficiency of the transportation trade network. This infographic shows the role that transportation and trade play in the provincial and Canadian economy. ♦

British Columbia Exports 2013
Submitted by Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach and Business Engagement

Did You Know Ted Floren?
Submitted by Road Runner Editor, Nancy MacLeod

Region Three Branch Engineer
Ted Floren, in 1996.

Road Runner received the below email in early November.

Hello,

At the very first, please excuse me for the very bad spelling. I am not good in English. My name is Anita Modig and I am living in Sweden. I am writing to you because I am searching a relatives. My father’s brother, named Lennart Bjorn “Ted” Floren, emigrated to Canada in 1929 with his father and mother.

L B Ted Floren was born in Sweden at 1926. I have found the same name in “Road Runner” Nov-1963, June-1966, April-1973 and winter-2004. Is there any chance that you can help me with information about him? Is it my relatives? The only information I have is that he have had the address: (street address removed for privacy reasons) Prince George

Best Regards,
Anita Modig

Did you know (or know of) Ted Floren? If so, do you recall him having Swedish roots? Are you in touch with anyone who might know Ted? If so, please sent in any information to Road Runner, and I will pass it along to Anita Modig. ♦
The majority of the Southern Interior Region’s Corporate and Operational Services (COPS) team hit the road on Sept. 23 to explore some of the great projects that we deliver.

Before we headed out, we celebrated our team’s successes with a pizza party and discussed how every team member contributes to project delivery. From workstation and telecommunication support, to the final pavement markings on the asphalt, each person plays an important and integral part in making improvements to the region’s roads and bridges.

Before leaving the office, we picked up our project information sheets for each site that we were going to see on our journey – thanks to Paul Riegert who prepared the sheets for the team.

Our trip began with a stop at Kamloops’ historic Red Bridge where Alan Schmidt and Michelle Evans gave the team a bit of history and current project information. The Red Bridge is a rare example of a wooden truss bridge that was built in 1887. While the COPS team was on site, the pedestrian walkway planking was being replaced and the old asphalt and sand seal had just finished being milled. A new sand seal and asphalt surface would be applied, and with some maintenance works to various components of the bridge, the historic structure has many more years of life.

Next we drove Highway 5 north, checking out the changeable message sign, and CN Road to Rayleigh resurfacing project that were completed in 2013. We also looked over the freshly painted passing opportunity pavement markings that were completed as part of the Rural Highway Safety and Speed Review’s implementation. Everyone enjoyed the safe, smooth ride along Highway 5.

Next, we took a turn at McLure and hopped on the McLure Ferry. This inland cable ferry is operated by one of our maintenance contractors and carries up to two passenger vehicles and 12 persons when the waters are not too high or frozen. The ferry ride only lasts about five minutes so no one had any time to get seasick.

Our final stop was at the north end of the 2014 Westsyde Road paving project. Once again, Michelle Evans and Alan Schmidt informed the group about the project which would be complete by the end of October. When we climbed into the thick brush for our photo opportunity by the project sign, Bonnie Cameron and Lorraine Thomas startled a snake. Instead of running to the vehicles, Bonnie and Lorraine continued to boldly climb into the brush and the rest of the COPS team followed.

In addition to gaining a new perspective on how we help deliver projects, and actually seeing some of the projects, we learned that we are not afraid of snakes… at least not when we are all together as a team.
Have you heard? The Evergreen Line Rapid Transit Project marked a major milestone – the elevated guideway along North Road in Burnaby-Burquitlam has been completed.

A launching truss was used to install and assemble 618 segments of concrete guideway along North Road from Lougheed Town Centre Station just past Burquitlam Station. Click here to see how the launching truss works. It’s fascinating to watch the machine, which was assembled last year, lift pieces of the guideway into position.

The launching truss has now been moved to the future Coquitlam Central Station where it’s being used to install 387 segments of guideway along the Coquitlam-Pinetree corridor.

Project Highlights
The Evergreen Line Project includes construction of six new stations and the expansion of Lougheed Town Centre Station. Take a tour of the route here.

Residents and the travelling public are seeing crews hard at work along the entire 11-kilometre Evergreen Line route. Workers are building stations at-grade, elevated guideways, a two-kilometre tunnel, and working on final road work improvements.

Construction of the first guideway columns took place in August 2013 along North Road, followed by the arrival and assembly of the tunnel boring machine in December. Preparation for tunnel boring began in March this year, with tunnel boring starting in June. This work is will continue into 2015.

As progress is made along the route, the project team will continue to keep the community informed about construction activities through meetings with businesses and residents, detailed updates on the project website, traffic bulletins via email and photos on social media.

Inlet Centre Station Innovation
Another major milestone was achieved at Inlet Centre Station in Port Moody, in November last year. Inlet Centre Station will have two entrances on either side of the intersection at Barnet Highway and loco Road and the station platform will be built underneath the loco Bridge approach.

The station design responds to the community’s desire for a road level station. But to construct the station under the bridge, crews needed to build and then slowly push a massive concrete box structure under the bridge using hydraulic jacks. The work required the closure of a section of Barnet Highway between Dewdney Trunk Road and loco Road.

An extensive community relations program was implemented to ensure that residents and businesses were aware of the closure and detour routes, and that access to all businesses would be maintained. The work was completed over the 2013 Remembrance Day long weekend and set a record for the largest structure ever jacked in Canada. Crews reopened the road to traffic eight hours ahead of schedule.

This major milestone was a feat for the entire project team. Check out this video to see the innovative construction in action.

Peak of Construction
2014 has been a busy year for the Evergreen Line Rapid Transit Project. Stations are taking shape and final road improvements are underway. Road works include paving, medians, landscaping, sidewalks and signal lights. The most recent took place on Clarke Road in Burquitlam.

The tunnel boring machine continues to build the tunnel linking Port Moody to Burquitlam.

Track work follows the installation of the elevated guideway, and includes the rails that the SkyTrain will run on, and the power supply, communication and safety systems.

After the Evergreen Line is complete, there will be a testing phase to ensure all the systems are working before Metro Vancouver’s newest addition to the SkyTrain system opens to the public, in the summer of 2016. When the Evergreen Line SkyTrain is open, the Lower Mainland will have the longest rapid transit system in Canada.

Stay on Track with the Evergreen Line
To learn more about this project, visit www.evergreenline.gov.bc.ca and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. If you live in the area and have a traffic-related question call the 24/7 traffic information line at (604) 927-2080. To watch live Evergreen Line construction progress, visit the webcams.

Fast Evergreen Line Facts
- The Evergreen Line will provide fast, frequent and convenient rapid transit from Coquitlam to Vancouver via Port Moody and Burnaby.
- Travel time from Coquitlam City Centre to Vancouver will be approximately 40 minutes.
- An estimated 8,000 new direct and indirect jobs have resulted from the project.
- The line will provide service every three minutes during peak periods.
Job Shadowing an Okanagan Shuswap Area Manager
Submitted by Melissa Thickens, Strategic Human Resources Director

A visit to the Okanagan Shuswap District office in Kelowna resulted in a wonderful opportunity for me witness the work of an area manager, on Sept. 17.

At the start of my visit, I had a fantastic conversation with the district team; sharing the roles and responsibilities of our ministry’s Strategic HR shop, and reviewing important initiatives and programs that support employee engagement in our ministry, including learning and development, health and wellbeing and recognition. I was impressed by everyone’s openness and appreciated them meeting with me given their very busy schedules.

After that, Lindsay Stringer generously invited me to join her on her road area manager duties which that day involved some site visits. I was delighted with the opportunity. I have read job descriptions and discussed the role in-depth, but it’s something entirely different to experience first-hand the variety of issues and responsibilities involved in this critical position. Lindsay was also eager to share her knowledge as she is quite new to the job, taking on temporary road area manager duties after moving to Kelowna recently, from HQ’s Business Management Services Branch in Victoria.

First, we headed to the roundabout intersection of Butt Road and Louie Drive. As we passed through the Westbank First Nation section of the highway, Lindsay explained about the unique project management and maintenance arrangement that the Province has with the Westbank First Nation. When we got to the roundabout, Lindsay described the issue and how it was brought to her attention, and explained that many of the concerns that road area managers investigate are raised by members of the public.

The issue at this particular roundabout was that the crosswalk paint had significantly eroded, causing a safety concern. We talked about the line painting program, how priorities are chosen, and the timing of the work (seasonality, etc.). I am happy to report that the crosswalks were touched up within the week, making that intersection safer for the public.

Our next stop was the intersection of Boucherie Road and Highway 97 where a member of the public had expressed concerns about the configuration and markings of the intersection. We put on our vests and explored the site to determine if any action needed to be taken.

The final site was the intersection of Harvey Avenue (Highway 97) and Gordon Drive. Here I learned all about pedestrian islands (or “pork chops” as Lindsay calls them due to their shape), and the difference between rehabilitation and construction projects, and how this applies to a small project. En route to the airport, we talked about the ministry’s work in emergency situations, including traffic management, communicating with the public and site clean-up.

Between site visits, Lindsay and I spoke about careers with the ministry, what brought us each to our current roles, and our plans for the future. We talked about the depth and variety of jobs within our organization and the value of mentors. As we drove through the beautiful landscapes, I made a mental note to visit Kelowna’s many wineries the next time I visited for holidays.

Lindsay was a great host – generous and open. I learned so much from this chance to job shadow, and would recommend it to anyone who wants to learn first-hand about different positions in our organization.

What’s next? Avalanche technician, anyone? ✪

CVSE Connects with Drivers, Companies at Truxpo
Submitted by Carl Steele, Carrier Safety Inspector

The many aspects of trucking safety and enforcement were discussed by CVSE employees and truckers attending the Truxpo Truck Show, at the TRADEX event center in Abbotsford, Sept. 19 and 20.

CVSE had a booth at Truxpo where Pamela McDermid and Chris Browne showcased the Weigh2GoBC program, and Barb Morris and Darryl Neville from HQ highlighted the new on-line training program for the National Safety Code. Enforcement officers also attended, offering insight and answering questions about vehicle and load sizes and weights, hours of service and other questions that drivers and company management had about trucking in B.C. The officers included Rick Philbrick, Cindy Hogg, Kari MacKichan, Murray Campbell, Paul Engel, Mark Steberl, Rick Wiltshire, Garry Lescisin, Bob Kelly, Marcus Sakhon and Carl Steele.

It is always good to attend these events to provide information in a neutral setting. More often than not, CVSE officers deal with a lot of these issues at the scales, or on the side of the road. Truxpo provides drivers, company officials and CVSE officers with a more relaxed setting, allowing for a better exchange of ideas and information.

Rick Wiltshire, Bob Kelly, Chris Brown and Carl Steele ready to talk truck safety.

Truxpo showcases new trucks and trailers, as well as new and innovative parts and ideas for trucking companies and drivers. Truxpo’s website says a total of 10,362 industry professionals attended this year, making it Western Canada’s largest commercial trucking show. The event is held every other year. ✪
Demo Run for Long Four-Truck Combo
Submitted by Samuel F. Lam, Senior Vehicle Engineer

A long load of piggy-backed trucks went through a Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) demonstration run in the Lower Mainland, Aug. 14, to test out possible delivery routes to commercial vehicle dealerships.

The eye-catching vehicle configuration of one truck tractor, pulling three truck tractors stacked on each other is known as a four-way saddle-mounted truck tractor combination. This setup has been approved by the U.S. Department of Transport for travel on U.S. federal highways for some time, but has not yet been used to deliver U.S.-made trucks or truck tractors to commercial vehicle dealerships in B.C.

CVSE allows a vehicle configuration of this type that is up to 25 metres in length, to operate in the province with an oversize permit. However, loads that surpass the allowable 25-metre length must have a route review for all provincial and municipal roads they travel and receive approval from the municipalities they enter, to obtain a permit. These longer loads could lower the cost of truck and truck tractor delivery in B.C., enhance trucking productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Working with JHT Holdings, Inc., one of the largest U.S. contractors for delivery of trucks and truck tractors, CVSE organized the one-day demonstration run, to investigate potential Lower Mainland delivery routes for these types of over-length loads. The test combination’s overall length was 27.4 metres, and the gross combined vehicle weight (pulling truck, plus trucks being pulled) was 36,200 kilograms. The maximum allowed for this configuration is 29.5 metres overall length, and 64,000 kilograms for gross combined vehicle weight.

The demo run entailed observing how the truck-hauling combination performed driving on roundabouts (watching for off-tracking), making high-speed lane changes, and entering and exiting the Nordel Vehicle Inspection Station.

Staff from municipalities were invited and participated in the observation.

Video of the load’s travel through provincial routes and the Township of Langley was captured for future reference.

Thanks Gary Li, for your assistance and traffic control during the demo run.

Demo run team with JHT Holding’s unusual truck tractor combination at Pacific Vehicle Inspection Station: Gary Li, supervisor CVSE Pacific Vehicle Inspection Station; John Woodrooffe, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute; Don Schuetternberg, VP research, development and standards, ATC Transportation LLC; Phil Recanati, driver learner, ATC Transportation LLC; Matthew Troha, VP and deputy general counsel, JHT Holdings, Inc.; and Steven L. Gantt, driver, ATC Transportation LLC.
Safety Supervisors Certificate Program Offered
Submitted by Alicia Kosolofski, Field Services Safety Advisor Assistant and Tracy Wynnyk, Field Services Provincial Occupational Risk and Safety Advisor

What is safety supervision? It's when supervisors understand work processes and their legal responsibilities for occupational health and safety in the workplace, and manage both of these aspects in their daily work.

You may be asking the question, like we did in Field Services, “How does this apply to our business or workers?” If you are wondering, keep reading.

At Field Services, as new employees have come on board, and regulations and the industry have changed, we found there was a need to update training to ensure employees had the information and skills they needed to oversee the contracts and work they administer. A list of required and recommended construction management courses was developed, including:

- accident/incident investigations
- confined space awareness
- due diligence for supervisors
- hazard identification and risk assessments
- information session – contract and special provisions
- information session – progress estimating system
- presentation skills, communication and crew talks
- shoring and excavations
- supervisor safety training – level 1
- wildlife danger tree assessors course: forest harvesting and silviculture
- workplace safety inspections

For many, these courses provide an opportunity to learn something new, while for the more seasoned employees, the information is a great refresher. The training provides employees with the ability to identify unsafe conditions and suggest alternatives to our contractors, to assist them with completing work safely.

For any day labour work, where the ministry is “prime” (responsible for employee safety), it provides Field Services or district employees with information and tools to assess and plan the work, and ensure that it is conducted safely and complies with regulations. Adding to and reinforcing employee knowledge, skills and abilities also increases employee confidence in the work they perform.

Field Services uses a number of providers to deliver these courses. However, while working through our training plans, it was discovered that the British Columbia Municipal Safety Association (BCMSA) provides a Supervisors Safety Certificate Program. As most Field Services employees have taken one or more of the eligible courses offered through the BCMSA, they were automatically enrolled in the certificate program. Through courses offered recently in the three regions, specifically for Field Services, employees have had the opportunity to earn their safety supervision certificates.

It is with great pleasure and pride that Field Services announces that Nayana Kumarapeli, Eric Graham and Randy Rattray have received their certificates. Congratulations gentlemen on a job well done, and being the first to achieve this milestone!

Field Services will continue to promote the certificate program to its employees. Training sessions took place this November and will be offered in spring 2015.

For further information about the courses required to complete the program please see the BCMSA website: www.bcmsa.ca/supervisor-safety-certificate/.

From the wise words of Dr. Seuss, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.”

Nayana Kumarapeli with his supervisors safety certificate. Randy Rattray shares his enthusiasm for learning and safety. Eric Graham earned his supervisors safety certificate earlier this year.
Celebrating Long Service at our Ministry
Submitted by Seana van der Valk, HR Planner, Communications and Engagement

The Long Service Awards are an opportunity to recognize individuals in the BC Public Service who have achieved 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and sometimes even 50 years of service.

For the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, our Long Service Awards ceremony was held in Victoria, on Oct. 2. Also attending were award recipients from Elections BC, Office of the Auditor General, the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Appeal Board.

Together, our ministry’s remarkable 91 recipients have given more than 2,700 years of service. I know I speak for everyone when I say, thank you for your dedication, your contributions and your excellence.

Congratulations to our 2014 award recipients:

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR RECIPIENTS

Sherrie Applegate
Frank Dacho
Lisa Gow
Sandra Jackman
Michael Kiessling
Janice Meier
Sue Pare
Liz Seward
Lori Wiedeman

David Bachynski
Hali Davenport
Catherine Grisewood
Jason Jackson
Daryl Nolan
Carolyn Parkinson
Greg Shea

David Bayne
Nancy Fairs-Natland
Paul Imada
Susan Jones
Darren Lincoln
Yvonne Pearson
Heather Syfchuck

Brent Beattie
Shirley Fisher
Grant Irvine
Marlene Keehn
Ron Lowther
Lori Otto
Catherine Seel
Ron Wiebe

THIRTY YEAR RECIPIENTS

Scotty Aitken
Jack Bennetto
Allen Fong
Brad Roberts
Duane Spencer
Carol Woykin

Donald Amyott
Gordon Bonwick
Edwin Hilland
Geordie Robertson
Gary Stewart
Wes Yuckin

Brent Andrews
Dean Daniel
Jennifer MacDonald
Donna Rowe
Ward Taylor

Dawn Beck
Wayne Elke
David Mintak
Melvin Smith
Vince Trozzo

Brian Atkins
George Brown
David Gaddes
Janice Kerr
Julie Martin
Bill Richards
David Swales
Edward Wnuk

Kay Bamford
Giesila Decker
Peter Gooch
Rolf Kortegaard
Donald McKimmie
Don Shaw
George Symons

Art Barry
Len Folkard
Fernando Grössling
Tina Kulchyski
Terry Murphy
Rod Shaw
Gary Watkinson

Mo Barry
Dianne Froese
Al Jones
Douglas Mackay
Dale Ramsey
Udo Sommer
Karen Westlund

FORTY YEAR RECIPIENTS

Holly Adems
Vondie Larsen

Rodney Chapman
Mike McLaren

Thomas Haggard
Dan Templeton

David Kyte

Snapshots in Time

40 years ago: In 1974, the pocket calculator was introduced. This was a real advantage for employees as this was also the year the Department of Highways, in conjunction with all levels of government and industry across Canada, started converting from the Imperial system of measure to the metric system.

30 years ago: In 1984, construction of the Alex Fraser Bridge in the Lower Mainland began and was completed in 1986; at the time, it was the longest bridge in the world.

25 years ago: In 1989, the Road Runner featured an article called “What is Internet?”

Field Services’ Vondie Larsen (40 years) and Al Jones (35 years) with Maggi Jones (guest).

Northern Region’s Ron Wiebe (right), with guest Deanna Ramsey, has 25 years with the BC Public Service.
Ed Miska Awarded for Leading Traffic Manual Team
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Leading the editorial team that revised the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada earned Ed Miska a service award from the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), at the association’s annual gathering in Montreal, on Sept. 28.

Our ministry’s chief traffic, electrical, highway safety and geometric engineer was presented with the award for guiding the compilation of technical traffic engineering content, prepared by a volunteer team of transportation professionals from provincial and municipal governments across Canada. Ed and 12 members of the Traffic Operations and Management Standing Committee worked on the project for more than three years, and released the publication earlier this year.

About two thirds of the hefty 400-page manual was revised by the editorial team. The fifth edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada replaces the previous one from 1998, and provides national guidance for traffic control devices, like traffic signals, signs, line markings, bicycle traffic controls and accessible pedestrian signals.

It’s described on the TAC bookstore website as “an essential tool for all professionals involved in traffic management and control.” Adhering to the standards, the website says, “improves safety, serves the convenience of the road user and promotes the efficient movement of persons and goods and the orderly flow of traffic.”

Congratulations Ed on receiving national recognition for your contributions!

Ed Miska was recognized for his role in producing the new edition of the Canadian traffic control device manual.

Meet the Engineering and Technical Working Committee
Submitted by Lindsey Fanning, Senior Project Manager

In the fall of 2013, the Highways Department established an Engineering and Technical Working Committee to address challenges and ensure our engineering and technical teams remain solid and vibrant in the ministry. The purpose of the committee is to identify issues, make recommendations and implement actions to improve the state of engineering and technical services.

The committee consists of 22 engineering and technical team employees from across the province, representing a demographic diversity and a range of disciplines and experience. The committee has been working hard to explore how service delivery can be enhanced across the following aspects:

• Maintaining knowledgeable owner status
• Attracting and retaining technical and engineering staff
• Allocating engineering resources – internal and external
• Training and developing all engineering staff
• Ensuring clarity on the roles and responsibilities of engineering and technical staff
• Effectively using consultants

Members of the committee are responsible for championing the recommendations tabled at the working group sessions and in some situations will be supporting the implementation of action plans, as directed by the Highways Leadership Team. A summary of the actions and recommendations made by the committee will be developed by spring 2015.

For more information on committee members or updates on activities, please check out our page on TRANnet.

Highways ADM Dave Duncan speaks with the committee.
GranFondo a Grand Experience for Traffic Team
Submitted by Daniel Johnson, Area Development and Operations Technician

The Fifth Annual RBC Whistler GranFondo brought eight ministry employees together bright and early at a North Vancouver restaurant, on Sept. 6.

At the table was Debra Derkson, Bill Crichton, Loretta Carlson, Maziar Kazemi, Daniel Johnson, Jim Hegan, Holly Adems and Henry Lew – this year’s traffic management team for the GranFondo ("big ride" in Italian). We fueled up on coffee, toast and pancakes while thousands of cyclists readied themselves across Burrard Inlet in Stanley Park.

By 5:30 a.m, we were hitting the road to go to our checkpoints. The weather was absolutely perfect, with the day starting off clear and cool, as riders made their way to the Lions Gate Bridge.

This was the first year for the "Forte Route," an additional leg to the 122-kilometre ride from Vancouver to Whistler. The Forte took the hardiest 300 riders up Cypress Bowl Road before blending them with the other 4,000 riders en route to Whistler. The Forte added an extra 30 kilometres, with a total hill elevation gain of 2,500 metres – a gruelling climb!

Maziar Kazemi was the ministry representative on this new route, and worked alongside traffic control personnel and BC Parks employees to monitor event activities and the passage of cyclists.

“This was my first year as a ministry rep with the GranFondo, and I found it to be quite exhilarating – from being up at the crack of dawn, to seeing riders pass by at extreme speeds," said Maziar.

“The best part of it all was seeing a group of riders stop to change a flat tire mid-race, and in record time, right before my eyes. It was Grand Prix pit stop style – truly a memorable experience!”

As for me, I had recently joined the district and had been looking forward to getting out onto the road for events like the GranFondo. I was positioned on Highway 99 at Tunnel Point, just north of Lions Bay. On my drive to Tunnel Point, I could see that Highway 99 was ready to go. Miller Capilano, our maintenance contractor, had started work at midnight, setting out approximately 7,000 cones, 422 signs and 130 barricades to ensure the safe movement of not only the cyclists, but the vehicle traffic too, along the Highway 99 corridor.

The first riders blasted through Tunnel Point at 7:30 a.m. – an impressive sight as they cruised around the rock face. The final sweep car came through at 10:25 a.m., just as the sun was peaking over towering Brunswick Mountain.

Throughout the morning, I relayed my event updates to Henry Lew, who was situated at the command centre in Whistler. Meanwhile, Holly Adems travelled the entire event route, checking in with each ministry representative along the way, while making sure everything was running smoothly.

The day was a great conclusion to months of planning and organizing by the ministry GranFondo traffic management team. We had worked with police and maintenance contractors, and many groups, municipalities and agencies, with everyone coming together to create another successful Whistler GranFondo sporting event on the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

Daniel Johnson at spectacular Howe Sound.

Jim Hegan with his camera and huge lens (it’s real!) on site in Squamish.

Maziar Kazemi, stationed on Cypress Bowl Road, for his first GranFondo assignment.
Scanning Success
Submitted by Lenora Fillion, Regional Manager, Business Services

In January 2013, a walkabout by the administrative team in the Northern Regional Office resulted in a large number of administrative projects being identified. A project list was created, projects were prioritized and team members volunteered to take on various projects as time permitted.

Priorities changed when, in August 2013, our office was impacted by a flood which occurred on the floor above us. A large amount of water damage in various parts of our office raised awareness that our daily business could be affected by the unexpected.

Stored in a cupboard within the Properties Section were very large ledgers containing historical information about road closures, reserves, easements, subdividing of land, new highways and permitting. This information was all original documentation regarding land within the Northern Region’s highway rights of way.

In order to preserve this irreplaceable material, Regional Administrative Clerk Linda-Lee Schell took on the task of scanning all of the ledger contents and downloading the scanned pages onto the Properties Section work drive.

This was no simple project. There were 16 ledgers varying in size, all ledger pages were two sided and each had to be individually removed, scanned and returned to the ledger. As an example of the size of these pages, 14 of the ledgers were 39 inches by 47 inches.

Linda-Lee began this project in August 2013, and with assistance from Regional Administrative Clerk Jean Bergman and occasionally Aboriginal Youth Intern Naomi Findlay, she completed it on Aug. 18, this year. The benefits of having this information electronically are twofold: not only is it easily accessible, it is now protected from any future potential damage or loss.

Properties Section Manager Steve Burke breathed a huge sigh of relief when the last ledger page was scanned.

Our gratitude and thanks to Linda-Lee for taking the lead on this major accomplishment on the records management front! #

Connecting for the Customer Satisfaction Survey
Submitted by Loretta Carlson, District Clerk

Customer Satisfaction Survey 2014 was a blast, with two new employees taking on the experience – A/District Services Manager Maziar Kazemi and District Clerk Kailee Ingham. I would like to thank them both for helping me out at the BC Ferries terminal in Tsawwassen, in August this year.

Kailee’s Experience:
“Getting out and about into the community within the first few months of starting with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was a great opportunity for me to test what I had learned, to ask the public their thoughts, and to hear some pretty invaluable and honest feedback. Most people were fantastic and had nothing to say but great things about the ministry’s customer service and the infrastructure we provide and maintain. The surveys helped us guide the conversation to get accurate and candid feedback, and also helped us to highlight all the great things for which the ministry is responsible.”

Maziar’s Experience:
“I found this exercise to be extremely valuable for connecting with members of the public in person, and hearing about how our ministry’s services directly impact different user groups on a daily basis. I thought that our presence really demonstrated to the public, how important their feedback was to us, and how the input received would directly guide the ministry in improving our services, where applicable. I am quite excited to see the results of the surveys as a lot of the feedback was very positive.”

Loretta Carlson and Kailee Ingham at the Tsawwassen BC Ferries terminal.
Ryan Oakley Captures Humans of Nelson
Submitted by Ron Sharp, A/Manager, Electrical Services

West Kootenay District’s own Ryan Oakley is a remarkable fellow, in a remarkable city, doing remarkable things for the ministry, and his world.

Ryan, district program engineer with the West Kootenay District, has been toting his Olympus camera through the streets of Nelson in his spare time, interviewing and photographing the people and visitors of Nelson – one person, and one story at a time.

“One day, my buddy Cliff sends me a link to the Humans of New York website and Facebook page,” Ryan explains about how he got started. He was hooked...then he was excited.

“The photographer for Humans of New York (Brandon Stanton) made it look so easy. It wasn’t (and still isn’t) easy.”

The first person Ryan asked to shoot said “no”. But the second person said “yes!”

Ryan kept shooting as often as he could with the goal of posting a new portrait and story to his Humans of Nelson Facebook page every night. Thinking he would have time to perfect his art before anyone took notice, within days the page had hundreds of followers. After a month, it had a thousand. So much for quiet incubation.

It’s not unusual for Ryan’s posts to get up to 229 “Likes,” such as one on Oct. 17 where a man he photographed shared what it’s like to live with bipolar disorder. Ryan has a knack for asking people questions that make them open up, like, “What’s something you’re struggling with right now?” or “What advice would you give your 21-year-old self?” or “What’s the best thing about having a kid?”

Ryan found his audience helped motivate him to keep going and to improve at both the photography and telling people’s stories. And what a poignant collection he has built.

On Nov. 15, Ryan launched his Humans of Nelson book at an open house at the Civic Movie Theatre in Nelson. If you attended, perhaps Ryan asked you for a picture and a story…

Congratulations Ryan, and thanks for your story!
CVSE Brings Out the Bacon for PECSF

October saw the Provincial Employees Community Service Fund (PECSF) campaign in full swing across the province, coinciding with the ministry’s many tasks and projects typical of this time of year.

As of early November, we were nearing our goal to top the ministry’s previous annual contribution of $42,209.47, generated from fund-raising activities and payroll deductions.

An especially heartfelt thanks goes to the volunteers who stepped up and led events from bingos to bake sales, during this peak season. Thanks also to those who supported draws and events, donated goods or services to raise money, or contributed a portion of their paycheque to fund agencies that help people in need.

Pictured here is a sampling of some PECSF events at HQ, which also included on-line bingo, 50-50 draws and a mini-golf tournament.

What PECSF activities did your workplace cook up? Send in your PECSF stories and photos for the upcoming February 2015 Road Runner to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca or Nancy.McLeod@gov.bc.ca.

Community Events

Smiling Nancy Fairs-Natland and Jackie Hucal do some down-home dancing.

Cowgirl Lynn Zethof adds some bacon to Steve Clifford’s hearty pancake breakfast.

Bake sale goodies brighten the day for Stacy Scrivner, Courtney Shaw, Dave Duncan and PECSF Executive Lead Deborah Bowman.

Brian Kangas flips flapjacks at the CVSE Stampede Breakfast.

Mary Bratanovic won the Golden Ticket which entitles her to a cake or pie of her choice, baked from scratch by Jessica Ling.

Susan Kwan (along with Michelle Morris) was heading up the herd for HQ’s fund-raising efforts.
Test of Humanity Raises Funds for Fourth Year
Submitted by Nic Seaton, Avalanche Technician / Weather Network Program Manager

The Test of Humanity mountain bike race was once again a great success, as it ran for its fourth year, on Sept. 21.

With 270 racers, 80 volunteers and 35 sponsors, we were able to raise more than $45,000 for Canadian Humanitarian’s projects in Ethiopia. Canadian Humanitarian is a non-religious, non-profit organization that provides orphaned and vulnerable children in Ethiopia with access to health care, education, vocational training and the basic necessities of life such as nutrition and shelter. The organization’s progress, and the spirit of the Test of Humanity race are captured in this short video.

As always, the race was a fun-filled event with competitions for all ages and capabilities. Starting at 9 a.m., the half-hour test (three to six year olds), the two-hour test (11 to 15 years olds) and the test ride (designed for beginner riders 16 years and older) get under way. These events are always great fun and provide some of the best entertainment of the day. At 10 a.m., the one-hour test (seven to 10 year olds) got underway.

With the one-hour test it’s always interesting to watch the rider dynamics and see the escalation to help gain those precious extra seconds!

The main event is a four-hour endurance race where competitors do as many 10-kilometre laps as possible in that time. Racers can either compete solo, or in teams of two. The course is moderately technical and climbs 1,000 feet per lap. Due to extremely dry conditions this summer, this year’s course was very dusty and not as fast as the previous year. With that said, Peter Watson, the overall solo winner, still had an exceptional ride with seven laps in three hours and 33 minutes. In the team category, Sandra Walter and Ryan Newsome were the first team in the history of the race to get in eight laps.

It should also be mentioned that the ministry’s very own Robyn Clifford rode in the test ride and raised more than $600 for the cause. Another ministry employee, Scott Aitken, and his wife Melissa, raced in the four-hour test team event and raised an additional $500, while Argo Road Maintenance’s very own Tim Daechsel raced in the elite 40+ category and raised $680 in pledges!

We would like to thank all the ministry and Argo employees that donated to these three stellar individual’s pledge pages. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Once again, a large number of people from both the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and our local maintenance contractor Argo Road Maintenance, stepped forward to help in one way or another. For those of you that either volunteered, sponsored us by providing equipment, sent in pledges, or actually raced in the event, please know that every one of you have played a major role in helping to break the cycle of poverty in Ethiopia. My wife Shei and I can’t thank you enough!

As raising money to support Canadian Humanitarian’s projects in Ethiopia is our main goal, we would like to thank all of you that donated so generously to the Test of Humanity. In addition, we would also like to send a special thanks to the volunteers (below) who helped to make the 2014 Test of Humanity such a great success.

\[ \text{Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure} \]
\[ \begin{itemize}
  \item Dave Swales
  \item Jason Wood
  \item Joe Peterson (retired and loving it!)
  \item Mike Boissonneault
  \item Rob Bitte
\end{itemize} \]

\[ \text{Argo Road Maintenance} \]
\[ \begin{itemize}
  \item Rick Morris
  \item Rob Wiens
  \item Sandi Paulson
  \item Tim Daechsel (raced and volunteered)
\end{itemize} \]

The 2015 Test of Humanity will be held on Sept. 20. If you would like to be a part of this fun-filled event please see our website at www.testofhumanity.com or email us at testofhumanity@gmail.com.
Ice Bucket Challenge Extends a Chilly Grip
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

It started with EIT Anton Stefanac bravely being doused with a total of six ice-filled buckets of water, and issuing the challenge to Highways Assistant Deputy Minister Dave Duncan on Aug. 29.

From there, there Dave took up the challenge and invited all at HQ to watch in support, at the upper courtyard of 940 Blanshard. Dave took only one bucket…but it was a big bucket. And he expressed good wishes in his email, saying “Thanks very much Anton for so kindly nominating me to do this… The challenge is on and it’s for a great cause, I hope to see you all there.”

Then Dave passed on the challenge to others in the Highway Department.

Highways Executive Director Norm Parkes was not about to be left behind, so he stepped up next at HQ. Norm spoke thoughtfully about the impact of ALS and how its effects can be similar to the “frozen unable to move” experience of being drenched with a bucket of ice water.

Then there was Rocky Mountain District Manager Jack Bennetto who dressed to express nostalgia for a past team-building rafting trip.

Thompson Nicola District Manager Paula Cousins first took the challenge wearing shorts and a t-shirt. Then she joined with Mike Lorimer and Rick Blixrud for another soaking from a giant ice bucket (see front page banner) a few days later.

Folks from the North jumped in too – Carl Lutz literally into Twin Falls (see Page 7) and Scott Maxwell went for an icy shower.

Watch for footage of these and more ice bucket challenges in the Year in Review video!
SCR’s ALS Ice Bucket Challenge
Submitted by Anita Clarke, A/Business Management Coordinator

Thanks to a nomination from Highways Assistant Deputy Minister Dave Duncan, the South Coast Region (SCR) got involved in the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge.

On Sept. 11, A/Regional Director Renee Mounteney, A/SCR Deputy Director David Mintak and A/Lower Mainland District Manager Ashok Bhatti, were doused with icy buckets of water, showing their support for continued research, care services and sponsorship of people living with ALS.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, affecting a person’s ability to control muscle movement, to the point of paralysis. Employees at the Coquitlam office are proud to have witnessed members of their regional management team take part in this selfless opportunity to raise awareness of ALS, which is responsible each year for nearly two deaths per hundred thousand people.

If you have not yet gotten involved, please do. If Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone can do it, we all can.

For more information about the disease, how to donate and the fantastic work that the ALS Association is involved in, head to the ALS Canada website.

Double Ts Play Ball to Support BC Children’s Hospital
Submitted by Audrie Henry, District Development Technician

A great group of folks participated in the Sixth Annual Bats for a Cause slow pitch tournament in Kelowna (Super Fun “B” Division), on July 26 and 27.

A total of 17 teams came together and played in the tournament and raised $50,400 for the BC Children’s Hospital. Funds will go toward much-needed new equipment.

Our very own Double Ts Team (for Team Transaction) was built with Okanagan-Shuswap District employees and spouses, employees from Field Services and the Southern Interior Region Office, and one retiree. Thank you HQ for supplying the great t-shirts.

We raised a total of $3,349 and placed fourth in fundraising through sales of raffle tickets, auctions, bottle returns and online donations. Thank you so much to everyone who played a part in this.

It was a great weekend and we had excellent weather! We also placed fourth (out of nine teams) overall in our division – not bad for throwing a team together!

The Double Ts on the diamond to raise funds and have fun.
Word Search for Pacific Gateway Exports
Submitted by Linda Harman, Director, Strategic Outreach and Business Engagement

Since 2004, the private sector has invested more than $1 billion in B.C. port terminals, as a result of the Ports Property Tax Act. This growth has seen B.C. exports to the economically vibrant Asia Pacific region increase to 41 per cent in 2013, from 22 per cent in 2005. The Pacific Gateway Branch continues to support this growth by facilitating improvements to B.C.’s transportation network, which includes airports, marine ports, roads and rail systems. See if you can find some of the words commonly heard in the Pacific Gateway Branch, in the puzzle below.

AIRCARGO  JOBS
CANADA    PACIFIC
ECONOMY    PORTS
EXPORTS    RAIL
GATEWAY    ROAD
IMPORTS    SHIPS
INTERNATIONAL    TRADE

Six-Month-Old Wins World Cup (Pool)
Submitted by Kailee Ingham, District Clerk

You’d have to be living under a bridge to miss the action of the 2014 World Cup this summer. There were 31 days, 64 matches, immeasurable tears culminating with attacking midfielder for Bayern Munich in the German Bundesliga, Mario Götze, bringing the final match to a close in the 113th minute with the only goal of the game.

At the same time as enjoying the sportsmanship of the World Cup, the Lower Mainland District was involved in a competition of their own that raised just over $200 for charity.

A total of 24 people entered the tournament based on wins and overall team standing during the athletic mega event, with the pool set up to provide 50 per cent of the prize money to the charity of the winner’s choice. With the help of his father (Operations Manager Graeme Schimpf), the winner, 6½-month-old Gavin Schimpf, chose to have the donation awarded to KidSport Vancouver. KidSport helps children by removing financial barriers that prevent them from playing organized sport. Here’s to the joy of the next FIFA World Cup – only four years to go!

Share your story in the February 2015
RoadRunner
Send articles and photos to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca by January 7.
Transit Branch’s Awesome Summer 2014 Photo Contest
Submitted by Andrea Mercer, Manager, Crown Agency Policy

What started out as a friendly, casual, low-key photo contest in the Transit Branch this summer, turned into something much more intense.

Competition was fierce with more than 60 photos entered across five categories. That’s not bad considering there are only 10 of us in the Transit Branch, although we did extend an invitation to a few colleagues, to beef up participation.

Having drawn a big volume of photos, the next thing to do was display them. My eight-year-old came in with me one Sunday and helped me organize and mount the photos on an interior office window, in the Transit Branch area on the fifth floor at HQ.

Folks from across the ministry were encouraged to complete a ballot, and vote for their three favourite photos from each category. After a week of intense voting, first, second and third place winners in each category were declared.

The contest aside, one of the most positive outcomes of this contest was having folks take a few moments out of their busy day and chat with others about the amazing display of images. I won’t get into the wild accusations about ballot stuffing or vote rigging. And as the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, so I’ll keep the write up on the short side, and simply leave you with the five winning photos…

Sunset at Wallace Island
Category: Best Sunset / Sunrise
Submitted by: Andrea Mercer

Sandstone Cliffs on Valdez Island
Category: Beautiful British Columbia
Submitted by: Andrea Mercer

Canoe Camping
Category: My Summer Vacation
Submitted by: Jessica Brooks

Land’s End, Cabo
Category: Miscellaneous (aka the “My awesome photo doesn’t fit into any of the other categories, but it is so awesome I still want to enter it into the photo contest” category)
Submitted by: Sheila Smith

Hiking Buddies
Category: Family Fun
Submitted by: Levi Timmermans

Jessica Brooks, manager of transit initiatives, voted for her favourite photo.
And The Bride Wore Black
Submitted by Loretta Carlson, Lower Mainland District Clerk

Lower Mainland District would like to send wedding congratulations to District Operations Technician (TELP) Kylee O’Dell and her spouse Joe Chapman.

On Aug. 23, Kylee and Joe were married at the Arbutus Ridge Golf Course in Mill Bay on Vancouver Island. Clear skies, 23 C, beautiful outdoor venue – couldn’t have asked for better.

The day was memorable. Everybody got along well, the food was great and Kylee got to surprise everyone and wear the black wedding dress she always wanted. The groom lost it laughing when he saw the dress, but he has since grown to love it. I mean, who doesn’t love a bit of black?

Kylee and Joe first met at the University of Victoria computer help desk. He was working there part time while completing his electrical engineering and she was in business. Kylee’s Macbook was giving her grief and Joe just so happened to be the tech that got assigned to her.

May your dreams come true, with love and more Happiness to share and the world to explore Together forever as husband and wife.

Please submit your full-sized original JPEGs, along with the photo’s details* in full size, to Nancy.McLeod@gov.bc.ca or to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca

*who, what, when, where and why

Kylee O’Dell front and centre in her black wedding dress, with spouse Joe Chapman and bridal party.
Wintry Shots from the Lower Mainland District
Submitted by Terry Merluk, Field Services Assistant

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure scored big time on this one! The moon looks like it was kicked right between the (goal) posts of the Pitt River Bridge, facing westbound. Photo was taken around 8 a.m., in December 2009.

A rare sight of the sunrise behind Mt. Baker, as I drove into the office parking lot at 172nd Street Surrey, near the Peace Arch border. I haven’t seen a sunset like it since. The photo was taken close to the winter solstice, on Dec. 19, 2013.

Where Am I?
Submitted by Doug Wilson, Bridges Area Manager

I recently came across this newly constructed sign while performing an audit with Mike Kelly, operations manager for the Chilliwack service area.

I thought other employees could be also be impressed with the sign, and that it might be entertaining and educational for people who don’t know where the sign is, to investigate its location. Watch for the answer to “Where Am I,” in the February 2015 Road Runner.

I came away with more than visual impressions from my auditing experience. I really think everyone that works in operations within the ministry should sign up and try to go on one of the regional audits. It is great for meeting other ministry staff in their working environment and discussing issues in that geographical area.

Every area has its unique features and challenges as well as the ones that are common place throughout the province. Everyone who goes on an audit learns something whether they have been around for three years or 33 years.

Think you can stump others with an intriguing sign seen in your B.C. travels? Send in a photo of a striking or unusual sign posted along a provincial road or highway, to the next edition of Road Runner. (And also provide a few facts about the sign to the Road Runner editor, who will keep the sign’s location secret until the following edition).