Bike to Work Week and Commuter Challenge 2017

Submitted by Hana Blazkova, Policy Analyst

Bike to Work Week 2017 saw people across the ministry and province get on their bikes and ride to work, from May 29 to June 4.

In Victoria, the week started with a challenge between Deputy Minister Grant Main on his bicycle, and Transportation Policy and Programs Assistant Deputy Minister Deborah Bowman in her vehicle. They started in Oak Bay and travelled to where Fort and Blanshard Streets meet. The result was a photo finish tie between the two travellers.

Overall, the cyclists came out ahead, with 17 of the 19 teams demonstrating that for the majority of urban trips, cycling is actually faster than driving! The two teams where cyclists didn’t finish first in the challenge were our Grant Main/Deborah Bowman tie; and a team that travelled from Brentwood Bay.

An amazing 47 ministry participants formed the headquarters team, Bike Me. This represents 10.4 per cent of headquarters staff, nearly double the current commuter cycling rate of 5.8 per cent in Greater Victoria. With 2,748 kilometres logged and 596 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions avoided (relative to driving an average vehicle), this event was a success!

Across B.C., Bike to Work Week participation once again broke records, with more than 44,000 riders, 1.1 million kilometres travelled and 240,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions avoided. Thank you to team captains from across the province for rallying the troops!

According to the Bike to Work BC Society, “people who bike to work have a lower absenteeism, take less sick days, are more productive, and are happier, healthier employees.” Workforce participation in active transportation events is a great way to encourage not only experienced cyclists to continue to commute to work, but also to create an opportunity for new participants to try cycling to their jobs. However, let’s not forget that the primary goal is to promote active transportation, not only to work during the spring, but also for other trips throughout the year.

Commuter Challenge

Building on the success of Bike to Work Week, the Commuter Challenge took place across Canada, during national Environment Week from June 4 and June 10. The Commuter Challenge encourages all forms of sustainable transportation (e.g. walking, cycling, transit, carpooling and even kayaking).

As with previous years, ministry staff logged trips in order to win prizes. In addition to a draw, this year participants who made at least one trip during the Commuter Challenge were provided with a code to receive a $50 driving credit with Modo, a car share organization. As with Bike to Work Week, the Commuter Challenge drew excellent participation! The ministry-wide team consisted of 44 members and their effort to use any mode of transportation other than single occupancy vehicle translated to 369 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions averted (compared to travelling via an average vehicle). To give you a broader picture, this year’s country-wide results were: 1,670 workplaces with 19,975 registered...
Editor's Note

Recently, we celebrated Public Service Week and you'll see from the photos, there were plenty of celebrations— from sharing food, to educating day care youngsters about road safety.

In this edition of Road Runner, you’ll see several examples of where public service became community service. That’s what happened in Smithers when more than 2,300 girl guides descended on the town for a week-long campout. Much of the Bulkley Stikine District got involved in welcoming and helping out the girls, with the maintenance contractor also pitching in.

Fort St. John’s Law Day gave employees a chance to show off our work keeping roads safe, by displaying a CVSE vehicle and talking with members of the public. The Double Ts’ (Team Transaction) raised an incredible $10,050 for BC Children’s Hospital, as part of an annual baseball game played a scorching hot day.

Wherever employees are, we’re proud to be contributing to British Columbia at our work and in our communities.

Nancy McLeod
Editor
Rocky Mountain Rides into Bike to Work Week
Submitted by Jessica Zylicz, Assistant Area Manager

After a June 15 flood response meeting in Invermere, members of the Rocky Mountain District took Bike to Work Week to another level. They had organized a group ride for the end of their day, and headed out onto local trails for some good physical fun.

Bicycles ready to go for some after-work stress release.

Rocky Mountain riders: Darin Welch, Jessica Zylicz, Neville Bugden, Carolyn Turcotte, Tim Nugent and Jeff Ferguson.

Find Fabulous Photos on TranBC Flickr
www.flickr.com/photos/tranbc

Our ministry Flickr page has more than 4,500 photos in more than 260 albums like:
• Pink Shirt Day
• Flooding
• Major Projects
• Highways History
• Inland Ferries
• CVSE

Trans-Canada Highway on June 9, after water and debris blocked a channel on Camp Creek

Bike to Work Week and Commuter Challenge 2017
… Continued from Page 1

individuals, 1,619,447 kilometres travelled and more than 260,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions avoided.

Thank you to all those that made Bike to Work Week and the Commuter Challenge a great success!

Policy & Programs ADM Deborah Bowman and Deputy Minister Grant Main tied in the Bike to Work Week challenge.

Policy & Programs ADM Deborah Bowman and Deputy Minister Grant Main tied in the Bike to Work Week challenge.
Spring 2017 Temperature Check: Employee Thoughts on Innovation and Empowerment

Submitted by Kim Struthers, Manager, Workforce Programs, Strategic Human Resources and EAF Member

The Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) conducts its informal Temperature Check surveys twice a year. Temperature Checks are one-on-one conversations between EAF members and their ministry colleagues and are used to gauge employees’ opinions on a variety of timely topics and issues.

EAF members sat down with their co-workers for the latest Temperature Check, which focused on innovation and empowerment, between May 2 and June 2. Out of almost 1,600 ministry employees, 166 provided feedback. Here is what they shared:

- 91 per cent of employees think they try to find new ways to deliver better service to the public and/or their work unit.
- 90 per cent of employees feel they have support from their supervisor or manager to innovate in their work.
- 60 per cent of employees feel they currently have the knowledge and skills to be innovative.
- A number of employees believe that setting up some sort of employee innovation and continuous improvement group could support workplace innovation.

Here is how employees responded when asked, “What does innovation mean to you?”

- Making things more efficient
- Improving current processes or procedures
- Digital or technological advancement
- Creativity (new ideas)
- Trying new things (not being afraid of challenges)

Employees said that they feel they have the knowledge and skills to innovate in their work because of collaboration, self-directed learning, a supportive supervisor and previous experience gained while working outside the ministry.

When employees were asked what supports, resources or tools would help them be more innovative, these were the top three responses:

- Technology: Through improved computers, software and hardware (phones, GIS, etc.), and faster internet
- Training: Having more access to subject matter experts, seminars, courses, resources and face-to-face learning opportunities
- Workload Support: Having support and training for workload management and more staff overall

We also learned that employees are industrious in sleuthing out innovative resources and information. Employees find what they need by:

- Looking online (using Google and various ministry and corporate websites; accessing social media; watching TED Talks; and reading emails and other communications from leaders)
- Networking with colleagues and connecting with subject matter expert speakers and/or their supervisor
- Participating in ministry learning opportunities and Learning Centre courses (with a preference for face-to-face)

So what’s next? Over the coming months, the EAF leadership team will share all this great information as part of their discussions and activities when they:

- Meet with ministry Executive to discuss how the EAF can support or possibly create department-specific and ministry-wide solutions

Stay tuned for when your local EAF representative approaches you, to seek your input on the next Temperature Check. Don’t miss the opportunity to provide your thoughts and ideas! ♦
Introducing the EAF’s Latest Mini-Project:
Get2KnowMe
Submitted by Krysta Groenewegen van der Weiden, Employee Advisory Forum’s Strategic Human Resources Facilitator

Feedback from recent Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) Temperature Checks has been clear—ministry employees want to learn more about other departments and work units. You may remember that last year, the EAF launched its Get2KnowUs series which helped you learn more about other work units across the ministry. That series was so popular that the EAF is building upon the accomplishment by launching its latest mini-project, Get2KnowMe.

Through the series of Get2KnowMe profiles, you can learn about what your individual ministry colleagues do in different work units, branches and departments. Each Get2KnowMe profile will highlight one of your diverse and talented co-workers, sharing the impact of their work and what they like about their job. It’s a great opportunity to learn more about other employees in different parts of our ministry, and to see how everyone plays an important role and contributes to our ministry’s success.

A new profile will be posted each week on TRANnet and highlighted in the TRAN Weekly Headlines email. Your local EAF representative will also post these profiles on your EAF bulletin board.

We hope you enjoy Get2KnowMe and that it helps you learn more about your colleagues and the interesting work they do throughout the ministry. If you are interested in submitting a profile for the series, please email MoT.EAF@gov.bc.ca.

Supervisory Excellence Networks – A New Resource for Supervisors
Submitted by Jenna Langejan, Client Relations Coordinator, Strategic Human Resources

Inaugural Supervisory Excellence Network sessions were held in nine locations across the province, in June and July.

These sessions were created based on feedback from the 2016 supervisor survey and supervisor summits, where supervisors said that they valued the chance to learn from their colleagues and wanted to receive practical tools they could use in their day-to-day work.

The first session, Difficult Conversations, provided participants with tools and resources to help manage challenging discussions. Participants also shared their experiences, built relationships and learned from their colleagues within their region, district or work unit. Protocol and Events Coordinator Kim Pilkington says there were, “…very honest and frank discussions, and based on the engagement in our session, it was apparent that this was a topic that touched everyone.”

The goal is to build a supportive network of supervisors and managers, so that anytime someone faces something beyond their experience or comfort zone, they can reach out to their peers for help and get through the challenge. “Everyone has their own style when it comes to supervision, and being exposed to so many different strategies to tackle the same challenge was eye-opening,” said Emergency Management Technician Kaylee Tower.

The feedback tells us that participants and facilitators brought their enthusiasm to the table, sharing personal experiences and providing examples of how they’ve handled their own difficult conversations. Others really valued the group dynamic and felt it was useful to have different levels of experience in the room.

The opportunity to have a fulsome discussion that was led by peers was also appreciated. Director of Traffic and Highway Safety Engineering Kenedee Ludwar noted that, “The supervisors who facilitated the sessions also gained some new skills and felt this was a great opportunity to work and connect with people all across our ministry.”

In a ministry like ours, where employees are spread around the province, opportunities to engage face-to-face are always valuable. An additional session on Difficult Conversations will take place this fall, with conversations on Time and Workload Management scheduled for December 2017 and March 2018.

If you are a supervisor and have any questions or would like more information on the Supervisory Excellence Networks, please email Strategichr.Transportation@gov.bc.ca or check out the Strategic Human Resources website.

Nicole Folk, Courtney LeGroulx and Kirsten Smith facilitated an engaging session in Kamloops.
Solutions for Paulson Failure Offer Extra Benefits
Submitted by Greg Kinnear, Road Area Manager

On May 16, West Kootenay District staff were made aware of a failure on Highway 3, just east of the Paulson Bridge between Castlegar and Grand Forks.

The failure, which was likely caused by road fills being over saturated by ground water, resulted in the loss of approximately 8,000 cubic metres of material. The impact to the highway was the loss of one lane of traffic.

Plans were put in place to have the local maintenance contractor, Emcon Services Inc., repair the failure with a rock fill. The three sites selected for drilling and blasting all offered side benefits, as a result of us removing rock. These were an active avalanche slide path where work would enhance an avalanche catchment; a rock bluff which with some drilling and blasting, would improve sight lines for a corner, and provide rock fall catchment and additional snow storage; and a chain-up area where rock removal would expand commercial vehicle capacity in the pull out.

By working six days a week, the maintenance contractor was able to complete the repairs by June 30. The site provided a few challenges, including the proximity of McCrae Creek to the toe of the slope, which did not leave a lot of room for removal of the failure deposit and construction of the base of the rock fill. We were also working around a Telus fibre optic line that was installed under the shoulder on this section of Highway 3.

Despite these challenges, the project finished quickly and successfully.
The Canadian Society of Civil Engineering (CSCE) holds its annual conference in a different Canadian city, each year. This year, it was in Vancouver at the Westin Bayshore Hotel from May 31 till June 3, and was the largest conference in CSCE history with more than 800 registrants!

It comes as no surprise that a conference of this magnitude relies largely on the hard work of local volunteers. Ministry Director of Traffic and Highway Safety Engineering Kenedee Ludwar played a key role by taking on the position of chair of the local organizing committee. Kenedee put a lot of hard work into making the conference a success. Ultimately, she found it to be a rewarding experience that led to a number of new friendships across Canada, and that provided her with a renewed sense of the importance of engineers in our society.

Engineer-in-Training Dan Cossette was part of the Young Professional Subcommittee and volunteered some time organizing the Young Professional Mentorship Workshop. The conference theme was “Leadership in Sustainable Infrastructure,” which fit well with the climate change adaptation and resiliency initiatives being led our Chief Engineer Dirk Nyland, and other related work across B.C. and Canada. Presentations covered current practices and the latest research on general civil engineering topics, and related to the four specialty conference themes which were construction, hydrotechnical and environmental engineering, and engineering mechanics and materials. Conference information and the book of abstracts can be viewed on the event website at www.csce2017.ca.

For ministry attendees, discussions with presenters and participants from consulting, academia and other government agencies provided valuable opportunities to share practical knowledge gained on projects. A couple of sessions that stood out to ministry attendees were the case studies and research related to bridge hydraulics, fluvial geomorphology and river ice engineering, as well as the sessions on infrastructure asset management, which demonstrated the importance of asset renewal and prioritization.

A couple of ministry staff were also able to contribute presentations to the conference. Seismic Structural Health Monitoring Engineer Yavuz Kaya presented on the British Columbia Smart Infrastructure Monitoring System program (www.bcsims.ca) which has been developed collaboratively between our ministry and the University of British Columbia. One function of this program is to help prioritize inspections of our structures and recovery efforts after an earthquake, using real-time seismic sensors. Dan Cossette also gave a presentation on his experiences in jet erosion testing of clay soils, based on previous work conducted at the University of Saskatchewan, which can have implications for bridge scour and bank erosion analysis.

All in all, having the conference in B.C. provided ministry employees with the rare opportunity to contribute to this valuable professional event and benefit from a wealth of information on topics relevant to the engineering design, analysis and management of the ministry’s infrastructure.

Photos courtesy Stacie Carr Photography

Highway 3 Passing Lane
Submitted by Tim Dyer, Project Manager

A passing lane project on Highway 3 in the East Kootenays was completed July 14, to improve mobility for eastbound travellers between Cranbrook and the Alberta border.

The Galloway Passing Lane is about 30 kilometres west of Fernie and 53 kilometres east of Cranbrook. It’s 2.2 kilometres long and starts just east of the intersection of Highway 3 and Galloway Road.

The prime contractor was Copcan Contracting Ltd., and the paving sub-contractor was BA Blacktop (Interoute Construction Ltd.) The project value was $5.2 million and the awarded construction contract value is $3.3 million.

This photo of paving the new passing lane, facing westward to the Rocky Mountains, was taken on June 21.
Public Service Week Festivities: Celebrating Integrity and Innovation
Submitted by Jenna Langejan, Client Relations Coordinator, Strategic Human Resources

Public Service Week (PSW) is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work, achievements and dedication of public servants across Canada. This year in the B.C. Public Service, we came together to celebrate our integrity and innovation.

Recognition activities were held in offices and other locations across the province throughout the week of June 11-17.

Everyone’s heard the saying, “If you feed them they will come” – and they did! The summer weather allowed for a lot of outdoor barbecue celebrations:

- Southern Interior Regional Director Mike Lorimer, Deputy Director Paula Cousins and Thompson Nicola District Manager Trent Folk barbecued a lunch that brought together staff from the Kamloops district and regional offices.
- In Kelowna, Okanagan Shuswap District Manager Jack Bennetto, and Associate District Manager Steve Sirett donned aprons, fired up the barbecue and served hamburgers.
- In other parts of the Okanagan Shuswap District, Penticton staff hosted a breakfast while the Vernon office went out for lunch.
- The Cariboo District in Quesnel held a luncheon and in the West Kootenay District, pizza was served in Nelson, Trail and Grand Forks.
- Williams Lake and 100 Mile House offices combined forces for a joint luncheon/goodie day with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and other ministries.
- The Rocky Mountain District office had a pizza lunch and played a fun game called “Shut the Box”.
- A potluck was held at the Northern Regional Office which included – you guessed it – pizza!
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) headquarters hosted a barbecue and EMBC’s regional office in Surrey also had a barbecue with burgers, potato salad and chips.
- Headquarters held a pizza lunch serving up more than 500 slices.

Now what’s lunch without dessert? Employees at headquarters were treated to a Chilly Treats and Healthy Eats afternoon, EMBC headquarters hosted Freezie Friday, and ice cream treats were served in the Northern Regional office. The Thompson Nicola District and the Southern Interior Region offices had Dairy Queen ice cream treats delivered to employees in Kamloops, and Prince George EMBC staff were treated to an enormous Dairy Queen cake!

But the celebrations didn’t end there. To top off the week, the South Coast Regional office hosted a scavenger hunt and a waffle breakfast. The Northern Regional office hosted three days of games including crib and Wii tournaments, and Williams Lake employees made a special visit to a daycare to teach children about road safety.

Public Service Week is an important opportunity to acknowledge everyone’s contributions for the great work we all do as part of the BC Public Service.

More on Page 9...
As public service employees, we all have an important obligation to protect the personal information of citizens and sensitive government information.

In October 2016, the Office of the Auditor General of B.C. looked at whether the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and a sample of five ministries, managed the use of mobile devices in a manner that maintains the security of sensitive government data. As a result of the audit, several recommendations were made in the public report Management of Mobile Devices: Assessing the Moving Target in B.C.

Key points from the audit recommendation include:

- Mobile devices need to be stored securely, even if on your person (i.e. in a sealed pocket or tethered, and checked periodically to confirm they’re still there).
- Mobile devices should never be left unattended or stored in vehicles.
- Mobile devices that are even suspected of being stolen or lost must be reported immediately via the Information Incident Management Process.

Staff should familiarize themselves with their mobile device and ensure the proper security and privacy settings are in place. Please make the time to review the support resources below, and direct any questions or concerns to TRANInformationSecurity@gov.bc.ca.

Support Resources
- Mobile Device Use & How to Guides, Government of B.C. Client Resource Centre
- Protect Your Mobile Device, Office of the Chief Information Officer

Mobile Device Use & How to Guides, Government of B.C. Client Resource Centre

For technical support and help with your mobile device, please call 250-387-7000 or email 77000@gov.bc.ca.

IN ORDER OF PRIORITY...

1. Password protect your device  6. Don’t jailbreak or root your device
2. Lock your screen  7. Be choosy with apps
3. Encrypt it  8. Limit app permissions
4. Limit password attempts  9. Keep software up-to-date
5. Use anti-malware software  10. Limit location information
11. Review voice commands
12. Promptly report lost/stolen devices
13. Bluetooth, WiFi, NFC
14. Safely dispose of your device
15. Consider using Find My Phone

Public Service Week Festivities: Celebrating Integrity and Innovation

… Continued from Page 9

At headquarters this year, the overflowing compliment trees were a testament to this appreciation. EMBC headquarters and the Northern Regional Office also set up compliment trees, encouraging staff to leave thoughtful comments for their co-workers. The messages were then distributed to staff for them to keep.

“It was so nice to see our peers are recognizing and appreciating each other,” said Northern Region Management Administrator Pamela Castle.

Public Service Week was a great success this year and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate with colleagues and recognize our contributions to integrity and innovation within the BC Public Service. A big thank you to all of the volunteers that made these recognition events a success!

At Headquarters, Kathy Macovichuk dives into her chilly treat.
Awarding Field Services Safety Achievements

Submitted by Tracy Wynnyk, Provincial Occupational Risk and Safety Advisor; and Cheralee Miket, Safety Advisor Assistant

Provincial Field Services oversaw the delivery and completion of many projects all over our beautiful province, in 2016.

Good safety practices, planning and communication are always an essential part of the successful completion of these projects. As well, a commitment to each other’s safety to carry out this work is evident, through inclusive and dynamic crew discussions. The effort and dedication of Field Services personnel, all year long, is greatly appreciated.

Each year, the Field Services Safety Department proudly presents Toolbox Awards which include categories in best paving, best grading and best manager. With Field Services crews once again achieving 100 per cent toolbox compliance (now five years in a row!) it can be difficult to determine the recipients. Winners in this category have not only met the minimum submission compliance goal, but they have engaged in safety-related research and activities, which have produced valuable discussion topics and ideas that have been shared throughout Field Services.

After reviewing the contents of the monthly toolbox submissions, and the safety engagement scores, we are proud to announce the following award winners:

**Best Paving** – Ministry Representative Blake Evans and his crew from Prince George have earned the 2016 Best Paving Award for their consistent timely submissions and active participation in the Field Services occupational health and safety meetings.

**Best Grading** – Ministry Representative Mel Smith and his crew from Kamloops are the deserving recipients of the 2016 Best Grading Award, as they demonstrated continual commitment and consistency, in the criteria for the monthly toolbox compliance.

**Best Manager** – Congratulations to Grading Manager John McKenzie for receiving top honors and taking home the 2016 Best Manager Award. John is a first-time winner of this award, which was earned by the crew for its timely and captivating toolbox submissions.

In addition to the Toolbox Awards, Field Service Managers nominate crews and individuals for initiatives which encourage creative ideas and enhance the safety environment for workers. Each year, these nominations and supporting information are reviewed to determine the winners. We are pleased to provide awards in three categories.

**Safety Leadership** – Field Services was proud to present the 2016 Len Romanow Memorial Safety Leadership Award to Ministry Representative Blake Evans, whose interesting and diverse safety topics have provided a wealth of information and benefit, to all Field Services personnel. Not only are the topics related to the work we do, such as equipment pinch points, distracted driving and winter driving tips, many speak to overall health and well-being such as warning signs of a heart attack, symptoms of depression and fatigue management. Blake’s dedicated efforts, whether encouraging his crew to improve their safety practices, or lead an overall healthy lifestyle, are a strong demonstration of safety leadership.

In addition, Blake shows safety leadership with consistent and timely submissions of Hazard Identifications and Site Specific Safety Plans, prior to the commencement of work. Blake regularly contributes to plan reviews, by providing his own comments prior to sending plans to the Field Services Safety Department. The Field Services Safety Department thanks Blake for his continued support.

Also, a 2016 Len Romanow Memorial Safety Leadership Award was presented to Ministry Representative Ken Gallagher and crew, for the mentorship and guidance they provided to a ministry project management technician, who acted as ministry representative for the first time.

More on Page 11...
on a Hwy 97 median barrier placement project. Ken and crew supported this employee with their expertise and advice, providing the new ministry representative with valuable experience in managing contracts and field activities, including contractor safety performance. The result was the development of a temporary crash attenuation system, which was easily installed and removed and provided protection to the travelling public when work was not underway. Great idea John - very deserving of a Safety Innovation Award!

Safety Challenge – The 2016 Challenge Award was presented to Ministry Representative Wes Yuckin and crew for their work on the Highway 97, Highway 33 to Edwards, Six-Laning Project, in Kelowna. After encountering many issues and concerns with underground utilities, the crew worked alongside the prime contractor, Fortis Gas, and WorkSafeBC to reduce the risk of utility strikes. This included facilitating additional training, delivered by Fortis Gas, which covered interpreting as-built information, improvements in pre-dig planning and additional non-mechanical excavation methods to verify utility location. Great work Wes and crew!

Safety Supervision Certificates Earned

Field Services is also pleased to announce that a number of employees have received their Safety Supervision Certificates over the past year. They are:

- Will Choquette
- Kristel Dodaro
- Peter Dzugus
- Fernando Gonzales
- Jan Hernandez
- Spencer King
- Eric Kronlachner
- Mark Lam
- Jan Larsen
- Runveer Nathoo
- Matthew Pearce
- Randy Pollock
- Ken Read
- Steve Szabella
- Mel Smith
- Dan Templeton
- Stacey Weightman

Congratulations to each of you for a job well done. ◆

Widyaratne Family Meets Minister

Submitted by Wijaya Widyaratne, Senior Highway Design Engineer

There was an unexpected meeting of Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Claire Trevana and some of our Southern Interior Region staff at the Kamloops office parking lot, on Aug 9. At the same time, my wife and two sons were there to pick me up. My boys, 15-year-old Thamindu and 11-year-old Binara, were so excited to meet the minister and they wanted to have a photograph with her.

The minister gladly accepted their request and Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Richter took that memorable photo. ◆

Safety Innovation – During work on a Highway 97 median barrier placement project, the contractor was struggling to find a safe and efficient process for protecting the public from exposed barrier ends, at the conclusion of each shift. Grading Manager John McKenzie pondered this dilemma, and using his ingenuity, came up with an idea which involved some out-of-the-box thinking and the expertise of ministry engineers. The result was the development of a temporary crash attenuation system, which was easily installed and removed and provided protection to the travelling public when work was not underway. Great idea John - very deserving of a Safety Innovation Award!
Bulkley Stikine Employees Help Girl Guides SOAR in Smithers
Submitted by Kim Struthers, Manager, Workforce Program, Strategic Human Resources

Want to rapidly increase the size of your town? Just add 2,330 Girl Guides!

Bulkley Stikine District staff, along with employees from Service Area 25 Maintenance Contractor Billabong Road and Bridge Maintenance Inc., recently pitched in to help the BC Council of Girl Guides of Canada with a rather extraordinary event.

The Spirit of Adventure Rendezvous (SOAR) is a week-long “back to basics” outdoor camp sponsored by the BC Council of Girl Guides of Canada, for girls between the ages of 11 and 18. Guides from across Canada were joined by counterparts from Australia, England, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Scotland and the United States. This meant that about 2,300 Girl Guides arrived in Smithers for a week-long camp, from July 22 to 29.

SOAR is held across the province in order to give girls an opportunity to see various parts of B.C. Past gatherings have been in Enderby, Prince George, Sooke, Trail, Merritt, Parksville and Agassiz. This year it was Smithers’ turn to host.

District and Billabong employees helped out in a variety ways with the big camp:
• Providing traffic control devices (cones and delineators);
• Setting up barricades and fencing; and
• Assisting with baggage handling and luggage sorting.

District employees also extended a warm greeting by posting a “Welcome Girl Guides” message on the Highway 16 changeable message sign board, for westbound traffic heading into Smithers.

The event was a great success and is another example of how district employees step up to support local community events. A big shout out to the following for getting involved:
• Caitlin Dobson, Area Manager, Roads
• Michael Hurwitz, A/Area Manager, Roads
• Rhonda Leach, District Clerk
• Carl Lutz, District Manager
• Fred Seychuk, Operations Manager
• Jordan Whynot, Commercial Transport Inspector

Congratulations on 35 Years
Submitted by Michelle Evans, Rehabilitation and Maintenance Manager

Pavement Marking Coordinator Dave Prehara was presented with his 35-year service pin in front of his peers, in the Corporate and Operations Services Team for the Southern Interior Region, on July 15. Rehabilitation and Maintenance Manager Michelle Evans was among many employees who congratulated Dave on his years of service.

1 – According to a local newspaper article, Smithers ran out of ice cream due to Girl Guide demand!
2 – The population of Smithers is about 5,400 so the town’s population grew by almost 50 per cent overnight!
CVSE Contributes to Fort St. John Law Day
Submitted by Erick Bessant-Chavez, Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) participated in the Fort St. John Court House’s annual Law Day event, May 27.

Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Erick Bessant-Chavez represented CVSE and spoke with the public at the event, where CVSE, RCMP and the Sherriff’s office displayed their vehicles.

Law Day featured a Superman-themed mock trial, the emergency vehicle displays, court house tours, information booths hosted by community law agencies and free hot dogs and pop. It has been running in Fort St. John every year, since 2013.

Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Nav Kambo, who was off duty at the time, generously took this photo of CVSE’s community interaction.

Ministry Drives South Kamloops Secondary School Students Batty
Submitted by Duane Wells, Regional Manager Environmental Services

“You don’t need superpowers to be a super hero” – Batman

Sue Scallon and her crew of students at South Kamloops Secondary School truly epitomize Batman’s quote. In an effort to improve bat roosting opportunities in and around some of our project sites in the Southern Interior Region, we asked Sue and some of her students to assist in the construction of boxes to house bats.

She was more than willing to help out and through the Environmental Enhancement Fund we were able to buy supplies for 20 bat boxes. Once completed, these bat boxes will be installed at projects in places like Harper Creek where the ministry created 200 metres of new stream channel. Look out mosquitoes – the bats are coming!

Half the bat species in B.C. are considered species at risk (vulnerable or threatened of becoming extinct). With their important role in controlling nocturnal insect populations, and cycling nutrients from wetlands to forests, bats are a critical part of our ecosystems.

Bats require summer roosting habitat (such as large trees, caves or cliffs), winter hibernation sites, and a good source of insects (like wetlands), all of which are impacted by human activities. Habitat loss along with other factors like human persecution and extermination, house cat predators and pesticides is putting pressure on bat populations.

Seventy per cent of bats consume insects and small bugs for food. The other 30 per cent eat various types of fruit. Only a small number of bats feed on blood.

The dung of bats is very rich, and in some parts of the world farmers collect it to use as fertilizer. Bat dung was also used during the American Civil War to make gun powder.

B.C. has an annual bat count that takes place between June 1 and Aug. 15. If you have time to participate in this citizen-science monitoring program please check this link: http://bcbats.ca/attachments/BCBatCountInstructions2017.pdf

Technological education teacher extraordinaire Sue Scallon, with students Sam Thacker, Deegan Ludwig-Konrad, Sarah Mueller and Rhys Paetkau taking a well-deserved break from cutting bat boxes.
Record Smoky Skies Surround Kamloops
Submitted by Steve Marcyniuk, Regional Operations Technician

Kamloops’ air quality was off the charts on Aug. 3, due to wildfires in the interior of B.C.

Our air quality hit 49 and our previous high mark was 18, which was above the scale that only goes to 10. Photos I took that afternoon, from outside our ministry office building, show just how bad it was in Kamloops.

Williams Lake also was in the “Very High Health Risk” category.

Looking north from the ministry’s Kamloops office.
Looking west from the ministry’s Kamloops office.

The BC Air Quality Health Index for Aug. 3 shows that a high concentration of smoke particles placed Kamloops at the extreme end of the scale.

Wanted: Highways History Book Reviewer
Submitted by Nancy McLeod, Road Runner Editor

Would you like to read the latest book about B.C.’s highway history, then write a review about it?

Road Runner was recently contacted by historian Ben Bradley, who has just published British Columbia by the Road; Car Culture and the Making of a Modern Landscape. (Soft cover or hard cover editions are available through UBC Press.)

During a September trip to Victoria, to speak at the Royal British Columbia Museum, Ben stopped by for a short visit. He offered one complimentary copy of the book, and I purchased one. Chapters include Behind the Scenery in Manning Park, The Politics of Roads and Parks in the Big Bend Country, and Changing Times and Crises amidst Prosperity.

If you would like the 246-page book, and promise to read it and submit a review for an upcoming edition of Road Runner, it’s yours! Be the first person to email Kristen.Reimer@gov.bc.ca and she’ll send the book to you.

Historian Ben Bradley, with a copy of British Columbia by the Road, published by UBC Press,
Ministry vs Roadbuilders **Granfondo Challenge, Penticton 2017**

Submitted by Ian Pilkington, Director, Highways Maintenance Contract Renewal

As many of you know, the BC Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association is a group that we work with on a daily basis, whether it is with our maintenance contractors during an incident on the road, or with a grading, bridge or paving contractor out on a project site.

Having an open, positive relationship with this industry is beneficial to both parties, as it ultimately results in quality work being done out on the highway, as economically and efficiently as possible.

To that end, a friendly cycling competition between the ministry and the Roadbuilders started a few years ago, to build on that relationship away from the workplace.

It happens in July at an event called the Prospera Granfondo Axel Merckx Okanagan, in Penticton. It’s a large cycling event with more than 2,500 participants that ride one of four distance categories: 55 kilometres, 92 kilometres, 126 kilometres or the full 160 kilometres (Granfondo is Italian for “big ride”).

Both the ministry and the Roadbuilders put together a team for the event, then we calculate the average speed of the riders during the event to determine the winning team.

This year, eight riders from the ministry took on the challenge, July 9. Frank Dacho, Helen Dacho and John Buffery rode the 160-kilometre distance; Steve Drew did the 126-kilometre ride (his first time doing a group ride like this); Ian Pilkington, John Babineau and Mike Hucal cycled the 92-kilometre stretch; and Jackie Hucal pedalled the 55-kilometre stretch. This group took on a 12-rider Roadbuilders contingent that represented the maintenance, construction, and service and supply sectors of the industry.

Although there was a bit of wildfire smoke in the air, the event was another great success. John Buffery completed the 160 kilometres in five hours (that’s holding a 32-kilometre per hour average for five hours on a bicycle!) and Helen Dacho came second in her age category – an incredible ride!

This year’s event was extra special as we had team jerseys made to honour Keith Callander, our dear colleague who was a big supporter and participant in this event.

While the BC Roadbuilders beat our ministry team this year, we all had a lot of fun riding together and we look forward to forming a team to take them on again next summer!

We are always looking for more riders to join the team, so if you are seeking a reason to get out on your bike and get in shape, consider joining us next year. Many of us make a mini-holiday of it, going a day early to enjoy the wineries, and staying an extra day to have a post-race dinner to hear all the war stories from the day out on the road.

Let me know if you are interested and I will add you to our roster. Also, if anyone wants one of the snazzy cycling jerseys we made up honouring Keith, I have extras.

Hopefully we will see some of you out on the road next year! ◆
Take Me out to the Ball Game
Submitted by Audrie Henry, District Development Technician

This year’s Bats for a Cause Tournament was the most successful to date, with 26 teams participating and raising an incredible $103,673 for BC Children’s Hospital.

The annual event took place July 29 and 30, at the Mission Sports Field, in beautiful Kelowna, and was filled with fun and high temperatures. This year’s fundraising brings the tournament’s total to almost $493,000 contributed over its nine years!

This was the Double T’s (Team Transaction) fourth year participating and our team’s fundraising contribution was $10,050, which blew away our goal of $5,000. Our four-year total is more than $25,500.

Fundraising efforts consisted of a pub night complete with a live auction, taco-in-a-bag day, online/offline donations, raffle ticket sales and a rooftop patio wing night.

If you’d like more details about the event, check out the website: http://www.bcchf.ca/events/event-calendar/bats-for-a-cause-weekend/

Kudos to the amazing team members of the Double T’s, and of course a big thank you to everyone who supported us!

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The dollars raised by the Double T’s were more than double their goal, this year.

Murray Tekano and Declan Sirett enjoy some time in the shade.

Declan Sirett, son of Steve Sirett, was a strong team supporter.

Some Double T’s cool off between games.