

## Warren Lemky – Regional Geotech Engineer

Submitted by Heidi Postnikoff, EAF Member

Warren Lemky is a regional geotechnical engineer in Prince George. He chose this position because of his previous work experience in consulting, and it fit his desire to achieve a favourable work/life balance with his young family. Warren enjoys his day-to-day interactions with multiple engineering design groups, as well as his ability to do in-house design.

Prior to this position, Warren spent 10 years working as an engineer for nine private consulting firms. His work with the ministry aligns with what he studied in school and coincides with his desired career path. The three most important steps that Warren has taken to help his career are: taking the co-op program in university, gaining consulting experience, and recognizing and honouring his desire for work/life balance.

Warren's interest in geotechnical engineering stems from his ability to do a variety of roles and pursue many opportunities. His formal education, as well as informal courses throughout his career, have been instrumental to his success. When Warren's children get a bit older, he may pursue an MBA.

He recommends that people who are interested in being a regional geotechnical engineer pursue multiple design opportunities, network, set goals and learn from others. Warren has mentored ministry colleagues in the Technical Entry Level Program, as well as other peers. His words of advice are: "Always try to do it yourself. Use your skills and learn what you don't already know."

Warren is married with two young daughters. He enjoys snowshoeing, soccer, horseback riding and skiing. Before his daddy days, Warren was also a traveller, backpacking in Germany and most of Italy, and camping in a lot of the western U.S. ♦

Warren Lemky (far right) and co-workers completed a geological assessment on a mountain near the Robson Valley. Left to right: Sean MacIsaac (surveyor), Gord Hunter (geotechnical engineer), Mel Hunter (Gord's daughter) and Heidi Evensen (geotechnical engineer).



## South Fraser Perimeter Road Big on the Environment

Submitted by Lori Leach, Environmental Coordinator

Even if you don't live in the Lower Mainland, you've likely heard of the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) – a recently completed expressway that travels along the Fraser River's south side, from Deltaport Way in Delta, to 176 Street in Surrey. What you may not know is that more than \$50 million was spent on environmental enhancements, as part of the project. Here are some of our successes.

### Burns Bog Hydrology Enhancement

The project team made extensive consultation, design and engineering efforts to mitigate potential impacts of the SFPR on Burns Bog. Key components included design and construction of protective berms, and installation of water-control gates and one-way culverts. These structures keep acidic "bog water" within the bog, while reducing the amount of mineralized river and runoff water that goes into the bog. This maintains the bog's water balance and encourages preservation of the bog ecosystem.

This enhancement work led to a greatly improved understanding of bog water management, and provided long-term protection for Burns Bog from adjacent development. The "non-bog" water draining into Burns Bog has been reduced by 90 per cent.

### Fisheries and Wildlife Enhancement

Significant effort was undertaken in the design and construction of the SFPR, to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat. More than 50 fisheries and wildlife sites were designed and constructed within and nearby the SFPR corridor. There are enhanced or newly-created habitat areas for resident fish, passable culverts and rearing ponds for salmon, amphibian breeding ponds and refuge areas, waterfowl nesting areas and forage habitat, nest boxes and tree cavities for perching birds, bat boxes and newly planted native vegetation. Monitoring indicates the sites are highly functioning fish and wildlife habitats.

### Wildlife Crossings Keep Creatures Moving Safely

More than 80 fish and wildlife crossings have been installed below the 40-kilometre SFPR corridor, to help keep animals off the road and safe from passing vehicles.

The animal crossing locations were selected based on studies at the early stages of project design. The studies showed how creatures within the area were using the corridor, and where connections between viable habitats could be maintained or created.

Since the SFPR opened fully to traffic in December 2013, motion-sensors, time-lapse cameras and "track pads" have been installed to record the number and types



Environmental management at Burns Bog maintains the water's acidic balance.



The Bon Accord fish rearing pond.

[More on Page 16...](#)

## South Fraser Perimeter Road Big on the Environment... Continued from Page 15

of species utilizing the crossings. Monitoring programs have shown the passages are being used regularly and are successful in providing safe and approachable routes for a variety of wildlife, including deer, raccoons, mink, otter, beaver, rabbits and coyotes. ♦



This track pad shows raccoon footprints.

Raccoon travelling through one of the wildlife crossings.



Deer crosses safely under SFPR to foraging habitat.

May 2014 Road Runner featured the Passenger Transportation Board (PT Board) and the changes that happened since its formation a decade ago, due to new legislation. Here's a look at the Passenger Transportation Branch (PT Branch) and its role in regulating of commercial passenger transport.

## The Passenger Transportation Branch at Work

Submitted by Kristin Vanderkuip, Registrar and Director Passenger Transportation

The Passenger Transportation Branch (PT Branch) mandate is to efficiently regulate B.C.'s commercial passenger transportation industry (taxis, limousines and buses) by providing informative and timely assistance to licencees and the general public. We accomplish this with 14 employees, in three business units:

**Licensing and Client Services Team** – James Copeland, Marilou Galang, Donna Harinen and Karen Levesque. If you want a passenger transportation licence, this is where it all starts. They take in all applications and forward special authorization applications (from taxis, limousines, small shuttles and inter-city buses) to the Passenger Transportation Board (PT Board). The PT Branch handles applications from large tour, charter or sight-seeing buses.

The licensing team's responsibilities include issuing new and amended licences, and associated passenger transportation plates and decals. The team administers more than 1,000 annual licence renewals for all licencees, and responds to a myriad of public and client information requests by phone, email and at our front counter. Employees also collect licensing fees and payments of administrative penalties issued by the Registrar of Passenger Transportation. This team expertly handles a high volume of work with frequent interruptions, in a fast-paced environment.

**Registration Officers Team** – Tammy Coleman, Deb Connors and Anne Ng. The registration officers examine and assess all applications, for completeness and compliance with the Passenger Transportation Act and Regulation.

They recommend to the registrar whether an application requires approval by the PT Board, the registrar or both (we call that a hybrid). The team also contacts applicants to identify and resolve deficiencies with applications. It verifies and substantiates client applications with various Canadian and U.S. federal agencies, to ensure they are in compliance with the operating authorities and/or safety certificates in their base jurisdictions. Licencees are informed of ongoing changes, including revised application forms and packages, new procedures and industry notices relating to emerging issues in the passenger transportation world.

**Compliance and Enforcement Team** – Dave Birchmore, Margaret Lovell and Louise Swan. The passenger transportation inspectors investigate complaints received from the general public and licencees. This includes complaints received by Consumer Protection BC, as part of the administration of the Taxi Bill of Rights initiative, to address



alleged illegal or unsatisfactory practices by commercial passenger companies. They conduct enforcement and compliance initiatives



Inspector Dave Birchmore's work includes investigating complaints about taxis.

involving both licenced and unlicensed carriers, and perform audits of licenced carriers. Inspectors collect and record evidence by interviewing licencees and drivers, and from a variety of other sources including the general public, other licencees or police. Inspectors prepare reports outlining investigations, and recommendations to the Registrar of Passenger Transportation as to administrative fines and/or other types of sanctions to be imposed on licencees, or violation tickets to be issued to non-licencees. Inspectors also testify in legal court proceedings as expert witnesses for

violation tickets issued by Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement inspectors.

[More on Page 18...](#)