

The Link

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Ranjit Bhangu & Marlo Fosbery take part in Dress Red Day.



Skate for a Cure Event



Adam McCormack, a 10 year old Merritt resident, plays defense for his hockey team. Adam participated in the Skate for a Cure Event held at GM Place in Vancouver on February 8, 2009. Adam, along with the generosity of Merritt residents, raised \$5023.26. Adam writes that “his time at the event was great! Thank you for your help for the kids with cancer.”

Dress Red Day—February is Heart Month

Once again the Corporate Office took part in the Dress Red Day to raise funds for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. The staff went all out in decorating and promoting healthy living and eating for this event. February 13th brought the judges to our office, where they were greeted with a sea of red and all staff dressed in red. We donated \$75.00 from the staff and had a lot of fun at the same time. We also received an Honorable Mention for our efforts!



Above—Shane Jarvie
Below—Tammy Smyth



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Kootenays Avalanche Program

Joe Mottishaw received a “**Thank You**” letter from Dave Smith, Avalanche Technician, MoT Kootenays Program.



“On behalf of the Kootenays Snow Avalanche Program, I would like to thank the Emcon maintenance crews and supervisors for their response and efforts during the recent storm and avalanche cycle.

The response included road level weather and snow condition updates, preventive road closures, traffic sweeps and deposit removal operations. Because of the sudden onset and widespread nature of the event, the effort ex-

ended was out of the ordinary. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the cooperation and hard work of Gerry Popoff, area Superintendent, Wade Wheaton, Road Superintendent, Ken Lawson, Operations Manager and Holly Borisenkoff. Communication support.

We are every appreciative of everyone’s help”. Signed Dave Smith.

Congratulations to all of those hard working people in Area 9—you did a great job and we are all very proud of you.

“...we offer you our gratitude for your efforts during this extreme weather challenge”

Gratitude for Tireless Effort Recognized

Hornby Island Residents’ and Ratepayers’ Association wrote to Larry Smith and Doug Nixon expressing their appreciation for their seemingly tireless efforts this winter. “At the January meeting of our association, there was much discussion about the heavy winter conditions that changed the rhythms of our island life for almost a month. We saw the two of you plowing and sanding long hours, day after day, clearing our roads of the snow and ice that seemed to never end. The phenomenal amount of work you did was men-

tioned time and again with wonder! There was a motion, supported by a unanimous vote of approval that we offer you our gratitude for your efforts during this extreme weather challenge. I wish you’d been there to hear the applause given this motion! From your island neighbours, I write, expressing our thanks.”

Way to go guys, one big “**atta boy**” to you both!

Feeding the Hungry!



This year the group in the Island Division Office decided to do something different to share their good fortune with others. Usually they adopt a family for the holiday season, but this year they collected and donated to the **Sonshine Lunch Club**. The **Sonshine Lunch Club** operates from a local church in the Comox Valley and from there they provide hot meals, four days a week, to approximately 160 clients per day. The employ-

ees collected cash from the Cumberland Road, Mechanical and Bridge Crews and Administrative Staff and were able to donate close to \$400.00. Malcolm Wilson, President of The Board of Directors and Volunteers of the **Sonshine Lunch Club** sent a thank you letter expressing their appreciation of the generous donation. Thank you for sharing your good fortune with others!

Letter of Thanks

The Grand Forks Rotary Club sent a letter to Joe Mottishaw, Area 9, thanking them for their participation in the Annual Christmas Tree Pickup and Dispersal.

Lynne Burch, President of the Grand Forks Rotary Club writes:

“Once again the Grand Forks Rotary Club wishes to sincerely thank you and Emcon Services Inc., for your assistance to our club in lending the club your chipper for our use during our Annual Christmas Tree Pickup and Disposal at the Grand Forks Landfill.

This particular Rotary Project not only pro-

vides revenue for our Club, but the public has come to rely on this service as an environmentally friendly way to dispose of their evergreen Christmas trees. The Club relies on our partners and friends for assistance from time to time to assist in our Rotary Activities.

It is indeed heartwarming for our members when a local business volunteers company equipment, for the good of Rotary in Grand Forks.

Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and may I say it was very much appreciated.”



Annual Christmas Tree Pickup and Disposal by Rotary

Possible Third Generation Employee

This little bundle of joy could be a 3rd Generation Employee someday!



Addison was born on December 19, 2008 in Kamloops, BC. Vicki Bannatyne, mother of this little beauty, returned to work in January 2009 after being off for maternity leave in 2008. Vicki, pictured below, is back providing payroll services for the Grand Forks area and accounting assistance in the Corporate Office.

Welcome back Vicki!



Barb Bannatyne (now Byrne) worked for Emcon Services for many years before relocating to Quesnel. So Addison could indeed be a 3rd Generation employee if she follows the path that her grandmother & mother have taken!

“This little bundle of joy could be a 3rd Generation Employee someday”

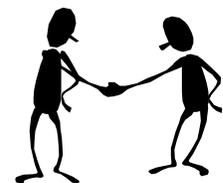
Thank you from Levi!

Graham Jones, Equipment Operator in Cumberland, informed us recently that his 18 year old son Levi has had his checkup in Vancouver and that there is no sign of cancer in his brain or his spinal fluid.

Graham thanked us and everyone at Emcon for all the support he's received in the past year; and specifically asked us to let Frank

Rizzardo and everyone else know how much it meant to him.

You may recall that we had the head-shaving fund raiser that raised money to help Graham and his family travel to and live in Vancouver during Levi's treatments; and that Frank Rizzardo, on behalf of Emcon, generously matched the employees donations.



Thank you from Levi

“Sharing is Caring”

Enhanced Maintenance

Enhanced Maintenance is a term used for monies that the Ministry spends on activities in their areas. The enhancement is that the maintenance contractor, along with the Ministry, completes these projects using subcontractors.

The Island Division received approximately 1.7 million dollars in enhanced maintenance this past year.

Some of the projects completed were the gravelling of Horn Lake Road, shoulder widening of Hwy 4, Cumberland side roads and roads in Port Hardy. Salmon Arm Crushing set up in Holberg Pit to produce gravel for those projects.



**Loading Gravel
for
Horn Lake Road**



**Above—Salmon Arm Crushing
Below—Grading Cumberland
Side Roads**



Shoulder Widening, Hwy 4



Fencing in the Frogs?

You may think that a frog fence is a laughing matter, but we believe the frogs are very grateful for the fence.

It seems that we (the humans) built a road right over where the frogs migrate annually. Therefore the frogs, in attempting to cross the road as nature had intended, were getting squashed! So the Ministry allocated some funding to an Additional Work Project for Frog Fencing.

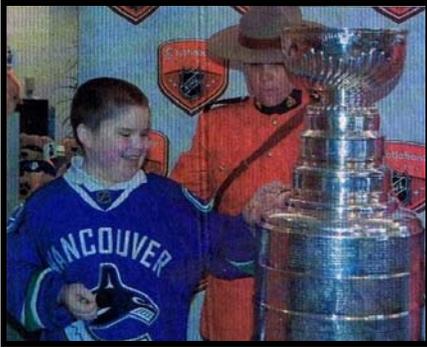
The type of fencing used is called a sheep fence. A very fine mesh was buried in the ground and affixed to the sheep fence for about 2 feet. The top of the mesh is rolled to prevent the frogs from climbing the mesh and jumping over.

The idea is that the frogs are corralled into the area then diverted into the culvert that goes under the highway. This will prevent many more frog fatalities.

Damian Girard is in charge of this project and is working to complete within the allotted budget.



Our People in the News



There was great excitement in the Comox Valley in mid March when the coveted Stanley Cup trophy was brought to Comox for display by the Scotia bank. The Scotia bank is an Official NHL Sponsor and the Comox visit was one of 10 stops on a cross-Canada Celebration of Hockey tour. Emcon Services provided the bank with the barricades to form the line that allowed the visitors to proceed in an orderly manner for the viewing.

Larry Hunt, an Equipment Operator from the Cumberland Road Crew, along with his wife Brenda and children Megan and Ryan are pictured right as they take their turn with the National Hockey League Cup.



“Terry Wasiliew, a 12-year-old boy with a dog named Lord Stanley, demonstrates through his wardrobe who he hopes will next win the famous Stanley Cup in 2009. Wasiliew’s mother said they would have brought their appropriately named pet to see his namesake first hand, but were afraid he might scratch the coveted trophy.”

An excerpt from the Comox Valley Record.



Fallon Fosbery, daughter of Marlo Fosbery, Account Clerk in the Merritt Office was named Student Athlete of the Month in March 2009 for the Junior Wrangler Division of the National High School Rodeo Association.

Fallon is in Grade 7 at Coquihalla Middle School in Merritt and has been participating in the NHSRA Junior Wrangler Division for two years. Fallon’s hobbies are volleyball, reading, cooking, bareback riding, riding horses, high jumping and sketching. She is one busy girl!

Fallon hopes to be a sports medicine doctor. She also wants to run barrels at the NFR (National Finals Rodeo) and Calgary Stampede, and also train horses. She also wants to maintain good grades all through.

Congratulations Fallon!

“A local teen’s artistic work currently hangs in Rideau Hall, Ottawa until Sept. 27 as part of the Spirit of Place exhibition.

Rideau Hall is the official home of the Governor General, and the Queen during royal visits. Claire Burnham, a Grade 7 student at Coquihalla Middle School, was selected to have her piece displayed where travelling dignitaries and Michaëlle Jean herself can view it.

The piece she submitted is a combination of drawing and watercolour painting, a technique she admits is completely new to her. Burnham said she is inspired by wildlife along the Coquihalla Hwy. and her drawings reflect a love of nature. “I like art a lot. Drawing animals, horses – I just sort of got into it. My brother and sister are into it, so I liked it,” Burnham said.

Her first attempt at watercolour must have been compelling, as it was first selected to be part of the Spirit of Place project and temporarily toured B.C. alongside other student works, eventually making its way to Ottawa.

The Emily Carr University of Art and Design presented 15 works which were selected from young artists across B.C. Artwork created by the youths celebrated their vision and creativity, reflecting the characteristics, spaces and spirits of their region, along with Olympic Games themes of sport, culture and sustainability.” An excerpt from the Merritt News, April 2009.

Claire, the daughter of Comptroller, Jack Burnham is very talented and we wish her luck in her future endeavours.

Congratulations Claire!



Updating Our Equipment Fleet

As most of you know our Sweeprite 4400 series sweepers are failing us—we are having serious cost and downtime issues. To this end we have taken steps to increase our sweeping capacity by purchasing two Eddy net pull behind brooms, as we should not be using loader mounted unregulated down pressure brooms due to the high cost of this method.



“ ... Sweeprite 4400 Series Sweepers are failing us ... ”



We have sent one unit to Grand Forks to deal with the pick up issue and to keep away from an air broom, which also has been the most costly of this activity. We managed to secure a good used mechanical broom, an Elgin Eagle side discharge unit. This unit is mounted on a Sterling truck frame and has the desired pick up configuration we want.

Training has taken place in the Grand Forks area on this unit as we want to ensure we utilize the broom as designed. These have different controls than the 4400 we have been running and have a back engine.

Luc Brunelle, the Eddynet Territory Manager, provided training with Ken Lawson, Dave Boughton, Rob Woykin and Earl Hunt in attendance in the latter part of March.



As a commitment to our ongoing mandate ...



As a commitment to our ongoing mandate to ensure that we have cost effective equipment in our fleet we are purchasing a Freightliner Flusher Truck to replace a unit that is in need of major repairs. This will be coming sometime in the near future.

On the right, Dave Thorpe, Equipment Supervisor, hands Rob Heaslip, Road Supt., Nanaimo, the keys to one of the new 3/4 ton truck to replace the smaller half ton. This truck is to be equipped with the new Green initiative LED arrow board and a hydraulic tail gate. This is only one of the 5 new trucks that were distributed between the Island and Grand Forks.



We have also purchased an Elgin Eagle self propelled sweeper to keep up with the demand for more efficient sweeping of roads...



and the Nanaimo area has just received a new roller and trailer for their spring and summer activities.



Apprentices Receive 1st Year Recognition

Recently three of our apprentices in the Island Division successfully completed their 1st year apprenticeship course.

We offer our Congratulations to Trent Brown and Mitch Jensen, Bridge Apprentices and to Eric Arkwright, Mechanical Apprentice.

Keep up the good work, your efforts are paying off!



Trent Brown



Mitch Jensen



Eric Arkwright



Continuous Training

Continuous training is one of the commitments that Emcon has made to the ongoing education of its employees.

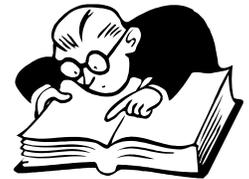
Recently a varied group of employees from Area 9 attended an Early and Safe Return to Work program hosted by the Construction Safety Network in Kelowna. They are Wyatt Peebles, Rodney Woodburn, Kathy Brodman, Holly Borisenkoff, Ken Lawson, Derek Watson and Pierre Corbeil.

Mike Mintz and Oliver Watson have just received a Certificate in Leadership from Sauder School of Business, at UBC in Vancouver.

The Advanced Leadership course consisted of 3 weeks of classroom training and a project to be completed over the winter months. Oliver says that this is the best course that he has attended. He highly recommends this training for other managers.



Kathy Brodman from our Grand Forks area travelled to the Island Division to complete 3 sessions of Traffic Control Training. The sessions were held in Nanaimo, Parksville and Cumberland. The picture below is one of the Cumberland session.



Clearing and Brushing



Gabriola Island has been the site of various activities during the past year.

We are preparing to subdivide off the portions of the yard that are not being utilized by highway maintenance. A lot of work has gone into the clearing, grubbing, fencing, etc. and we have now come to the time of year when we can safely burn the rubbish piles.

What isn't being burnt is being sold locally for firewood and some of the wood will be donated to the local Lions Club for seniors.



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*Road & Bridge
Maintenance Contractor*

New & Improved Safety Bulletin Boards



As part of our most recent Safety Audit we have created and installed new Safety Bulletin Boards in all yards. This new layout allows for all items to be posted and readily identified. The Safety Committee minutes will be posted in date order so that the most recent minutes are the ones that you see on the clipboard. Toolbox minutes, Action Plans (follow up items), Safety Memos, Inspections and New Safety Items are orderly and easily seen. The General Safety Rules and Commitment to provide a Safe Workplace are posted in frames beside the other Safety information. Please take a few moments to locate your safety board and familiarize yourself with the information provided.

“Safety is a cheap and effective insurance policy” - Author Unknown



HEADS UP!

Are you covered? A single blow to the head can handicap you for life or, worse, be fatal. Wherever the chance of head injury can occur, wear an industrial hard hat or helmet. And remember, if **any** part of the hard hat, or helmet isn't in good condition, you won't have adequate protection when you need it most.

ALERT & AWARE

Alcohol and drugs have no place in the workplace. A single alcoholic drink can reduce your coordination, impair your judgment and affect your ability to do your job wisely. And some medications (prescription or over-the-counter) can cause sleepiness. Check all labels for side effects. And talk to your supervisor if any medications you take could impair your judgment. When your

