

# The Link

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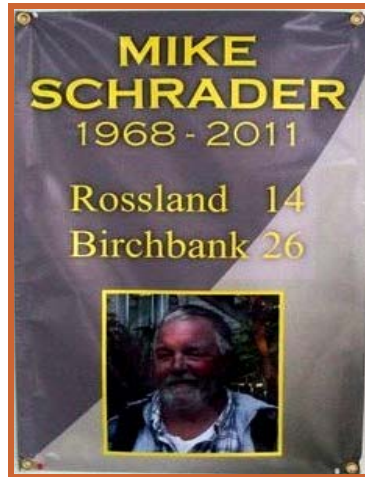
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## Long Time Operator Retires



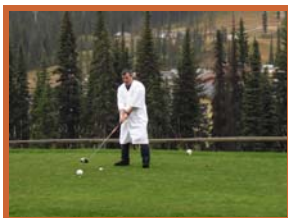
Long time operator, Mike Schrader, retires from the Birchbank Crew. Mike began his career in highway maintenance in 1968 with Ministry of Transportation and Highways in Rossland, BC and completed his career with Emcon Services Inc. in Birchbank on Sept 22, 2011— A span of 43 years. What a trooper. We 'll miss this valuable employee.



Congratulations Mike on your retirement and we hope that the road you travel is one that is maintained by your co-workers!



Above the Retirees dropped by to welcome Mike Schrader (middle) to the "Retirees Club" and to help him celebrate his retirement. They are from left to right Al Martin, Nelles Taylor, Dennis Pighin, Robbie Simms, Mike Schrader, John Yuris, Ken Dickson & Merv Colenzo.



Take risks: If you win, you will be happy; if you lose, you will be wise.

## Island Activities



The crew on the left is grinding and paving Highway 28, east of Gold River. Ted Williams is operating the grinder and changed his holiday schedule to enable us get this project completed within the prescribed time lines. Loud Thanks !!! to Ted working around the deadlines—we sure appreciate his flexibility!!

The Alberni crew below and to the right, worked hard this spring. The patching crew consisting of a rakeman, a rollerman, a grader and 2 truck and pups and a grader spread over 3000 tonne of asphalt on Alberni side roads in preparation of the chip seal program.



On the left Brian Hagen and Pat Wright and on the right Lloyd Price raking the new asphalt.



## Island Bridge Crews join forces



Paul Laughlin, Mitch Jensen and Rick Isenor jack hammering and cutting the old joint armor out.



Steve Penny and Mitch Jensen brooming the fresh concrete.



Paul Laughlin supervising the hammer breaking up the approach.

October saw the North and Mid Island Bridge crews working together on a project in Parksville. The south approach of the bridge was failing so since a lane closure was needed it was decided the joint armors should be replaced at this time as well. This bridge is very busy as it is in Parksville and therefore changing traffic to single lane alternating for approximately 3 weeks is a challenge. The concrete needs 7 days to cure causing the traffic change to be lengthy and 24 hours a day. The ministry has also added an upgrade to a walk way down the hillside beside the bridge that the crew will be working on as the project progresses.

# Bits N Pieces



Future Emcon Team Members just hanging out!  
Bryson Rizzardo, Cole Kwasny & Xavier Burgers

Yvette and James Baxter receiving grader.  
Kevin and Victoria Baxter holding the grader  
for James.



Neysa Sheldon, Clint Garcia and their new baby girl  
Payton receiving an Emcon Grader. Payton was  
born on August 24th in Kamloops, BC.  
Welcome Payton!



Little Mya Bursey, is  
presented with her new Cat truck by  
Darrin Wasiliew Mech. Supt. and he  
has agreed to do the first service  
free. Proud Mom, Tara Bursey,  
feeding her daughter.



Above—Larry Kirk presents Kody Mar-  
tel with his 2nd Year Apprenticeship  
Completion Certificate. Congrats



Kent Porter presenting  
Mitch Jensen,  
North Island bridges with his  
TJB certificate

# Partnering in the Kootenay Boundary Area



A picture of the Louisa Street Bridge when it was closed

*Excerpt from the Boundary Creek Times, October 13, 2011:*

*The Louisa Street Bridge over Boundary Creek is finally being replaced. According to City Administrator Gerry Henke, the bridge was closed to vehicular traffic about six or seven years ago, though engineering reports critical of the bridge date back as far as 13 years. The city works crew began removing the old structure last week and Henke expects the new Bailey bridge to be in place by the end of the month. Emcon Services and the Ministry of Highways will assist the city works crew in installing the new bridge. Emcon spokesperson, Ken Lawson, said the company has volunteered to help them with equipment and a crane truck. "It will be a joint effort of Ministry of Highways, Emcon and the city," said Lawson. He estimates it will take about five days to put in the new crossing.*

*A community minded project in partnership with Emcon Services Inc, the City of Greenwood and BC MoTI.*

*Those in the picture are from the back, L to R:*

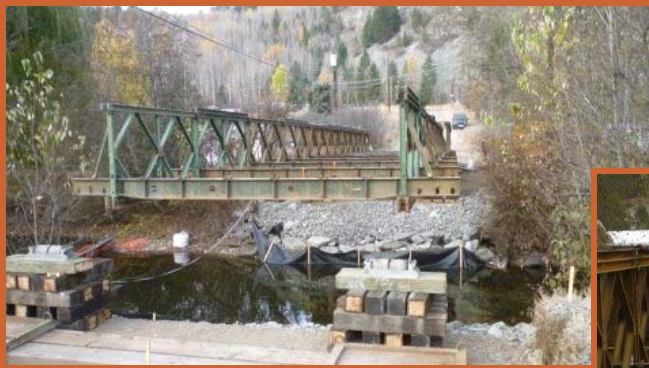
*Mike Prystae, Ian Stanchuk*

*Middle row L to R:*

*Garry Campbell, Caitlin Dobson, Jim Kastrukoff (behind Dale Nordstrom)*

*Front Row L to R:*

*Bill (City of Greenwood worker), Stephanie Gillis (BC MoTI) Dale Nordstrom, Bridge Superintendent*



From Left to Right:  
Mike Prystae operates crane at Louisa St. Bridge  
Launching of the Bailey  
Caitlin Dobson, Garry Campbell & Sally Sofonoff at the  
Louisa Street Bridge Opening.



Joe Mottishaw reports that the opening of the Louisa Street Bridge went great and as expected. Both the Mayor and MLA, John Slater, praised and said good things about the partnership between Emcon, BC MoTI and the City of Greenwood on the project.

The ribbon cutting was performed by the Mayor and MLA, John Slater.

The first vehicle across was a retired Greenwood resident that lives on the north side of the bridge. She has lived beside the bridge and has had to drive the long way around for 10 years since the closure. Needless to say she was very excited about the opening of the bridge. It was a very positive reception by all.

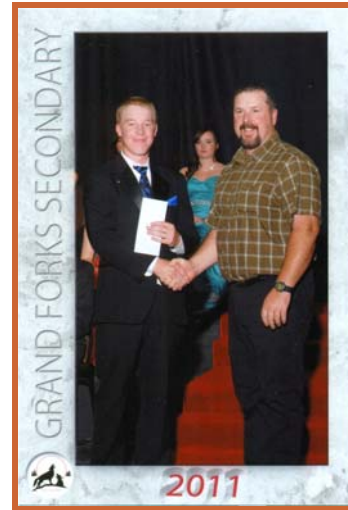
## Bursaries



On the left Scott Stevenson, Rossland Secondary, is shown here receiving his diploma. Scott is the son of our Auxiliary Mechanic, Brian Stevenson, from Birchbank.

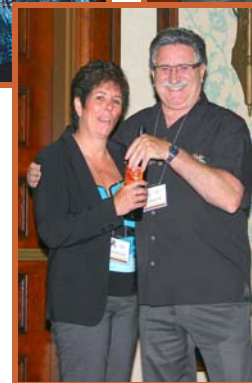
Congratulations Scott!

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On the right Wade Wheaton presents his nephew, Jordon Hoodikoff with his Bursary. Jordon graduated from Grand Forks Secondary. Congrats Jordon!



## Years of Management Service & Safety Committee Certificates

At a recent gathering of management, Geoff Battimelli presented Management Service Certificates for Years of Service. On the right are a few of those that received Certificates—Tammy Smyth, Oliver Watson and Holly Borisenkoff. Congratulations to all—every year of service is important!



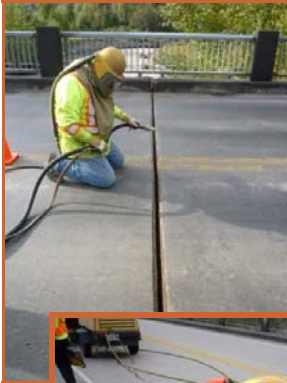
Service on the Safety Committee was also recognized at this gathering. Above: Barry Dales, Justin Burgers, Kent Porter, Marlene Ricard, Oliver Watson, Darrin Wasiliew and Mike Mintz received recognition from Geoff Battimelli. The second group of Ken Lawson, Rick Wright and Dan Price received their Certificates from Joe Mottishaw. **Thank you all for your Participation & Commitment to Safety!!**

## Bridge Work in the Kootenays



On the left—James Kastrukoff replacing posts on IXL Bridge near Rosslund.

On the right —Ian Stanchuk and Wes Armishaw fitting steel grate over the old sliding plate joint at Brilliant Bridge over the Kootenay River near Castlegar.



On the left—James Kastrukoff sandblasting the joint armour at Pass Creek Bridge near Castlegar prior to joint seal installation.

On the right—Mike Prystae trowelling concrete at the Brilliant Bridge in Castlegar.



On the left —Rob Konkin chipping concrete at Brilliant Bridge.

On the right—Ian Stanchuk & Rob Konkin installing a joint seal at Brilliant Bridge near Castlegar.



## Summer Activities in the Kootenays

Below — Lynn Davey and John Priede performing sinkhole repair on North Fork Road in July.



July 15, 2011

Above — John Priede prepping for grader patching activities on Gilpen Road.

## Island Retirements



Dan McLellan, Industrial Warehouseman retired on May 20, 2011. Dan had worked for the Ministry and various contractors as Stockperson for 34 years. Dan decided to make the retirement decision as he approached his 60th year. Congratulations Dan and best of luck in your future endeavours.

Dennis Brown, Trade Leadhand Mechanic, retired from the Port Hardy shop on September 23, 2011. Dennis has been with the Ministry and Highway Maintenance Contractors for 22 years. Dennis waited until he was 65 years old before he took life a little easier. Enjoy your retirement!



Jack Ellis, Equipment Operator started with the Ministry in 1987 and finished his career with Emcon in Campbell River as an RF2 23 years later. Jack is hoping to spend some more time playing golf. Enjoy!

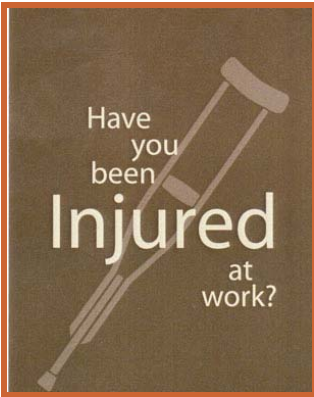
*"In retirement, every day is Boss Day and every day is Employee Appreciation Day."*  
~Anonymous

## Equipment Upgrades—New Snowblower arrives



The new Detachable Snow Blower arrived in Cumberland for use on Mt Washington this winter. Training of employees was supplied by Falcon Equipment. Trainees are Ted Williams, Larry Hunt, Jeff Smith, Dean Phillips from the Road Crew and Darrin Wasiliew, Keith Jamieson, Howard Bull and Eric Arkwright from the Mechanical Crew.





## Injury Management / Return to Work Program

Why would a company invest time and effort into an Injury Management / Return to Work Program?

Emcon Services Inc. values its workers and we believe that they are our greatest asset.

Injury Management programs serve as part of an injured worker 's therapy and recovery by helping them “Stay at Work ” or return to productive and appropriate work as soon as possible. Injury Management programs are based on the philosophy that many injured workers can safely perform productive work during their recovery.

The success of the program depends on actively managing incidents, maintaining open communication between all parties, and providing temporary modified work duties when necessary, to fit the injured worker 's capabilities. The injured worker needs to be an active participant in all steps of the program.

### Benefits for Workers:

- Helps injured workers recover faster
- Reduces financial uncertainty for the worker and their family
- Reduces the concerns of employment security
- Maintains necessary job skills
- Maintains a sense of attachment with co-workers
- Reduces the risk of negative long-term health effects



### Benefits for the Employer:

- Demonstrates to workers they are valued employees
- Returns injured workers to work in a safe and timely manner
- Maintains worker/employer relationships
- Helps retain healthy and qualified workers
- Reduces the cost of training replacement workers
- Includes the employer in the recovery process for their injured worker



Take control and get injured workers back to work

Emcon Services Inc. & WorkSafe BC work together to facilitate a “Stay at Work ” or “Return to Work ” Program for Injured Workers—  
Contact your Supervisor for more information.

The following step by step guide is designed in two streams:

Stream 1 provides steps to manage the worker's injury and determines if the worker can "Stay at Work".

Stream 2 focuses on how to assist the injured worker to "Return to Work" as soon as safe and appropriate following an absence from the workplace.



# Community Participation

A **Thank You Certificate** was presented to Emcon Services in Birchbank for their support to the Castlegar Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club 12th Annual Wine Event.



From Campbell River Motocross Association a Thank You was sent to Stu Travis and Reg Dyer for the work that they did to improve the Motocross Track. **“The club would not be able to operate if it wasn't**

**for the assistance of volunteers such as Emcon!”**

From the Sunshine Valley Childcare Society to Grand Forks **“ Thank you so much for your grader to our fundraiser Big Wheels for Little People.**

**We raised over \$800 for the Society and the kids of our community. ”**



## Holberg Road Rock Project



This was a PEP emergency work from last year. The project included drilling and blasting rock in order to move the Holberg road back two full lanes from Nawitti Lake. Project is under the supervision of Hans Van De Vosse. The two Emcon excavators are hard at work. The 160 is being operated by Gord Forester and the 250 by Stu Westwood. They have been doing some of the rock work by ripping and rock hammering; once we have completed all rock work with in house equipment the remainder of the blasting will be done by Subcontractors. Emcon trucks are being driven by father and son team, Bob and Jeremy Sandeman. So far the project is on schedule and on budget, although some recent major rainfall has shut the job done for a short while following a small slide. Currently the project is back on track thanks to the hard work of Hans and his crew.



# Gold Creek, Woss, BC Bank Protection

August is supposed to be a quiet month when everyone takes vacation and we finish up small projects with skeleton crews. Unfortunately this year we were hit by a very wet and rainy spring and in June and July we were held up for projects approval because of the high water. Hydro was slow to move poles, as well as MOE and MOTI being very slow to provide

approvals to proceed with our projects. For Area 3, North Island, this meant that all projects had to complete by the mid September fish window, or the mid Sept PEP financial target or both. All our crews and equipment had a very busy August. This project is at Gold creek in the Woss Area and is mostly Rip Rap bank protection work with extremely high

water for this time of year. This project could not be put off another year, now it is complete thanks to the hard work of our crews.



Above—Deflections Berms  
Below—Working under the bridge



Above—Filter cloth base



Failed bank at inlet Gold Creek bridge Hwy 19 North



Bridge crew installing berms and fish catchment nets in creek.



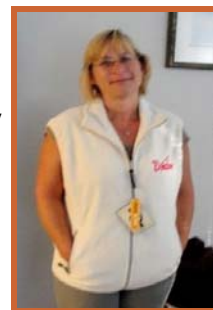
## Our People



The office staff, from left to right, Marlene Ricard, Leah Hurrell, Gay Ann Mackay, Debbie Inman & Debbie Schmold, at the Cumberland office were awarded Emcon Safety Award jackets in recognition of keeping a **Safe, Happy,**

**Healthy, and Co-operative work place** for the past 9 years in the Division Office. The Island Division crews and management team would also like to acknowledge the office team and to add their own thanks for the helpful, friendly, professional and dedicated service and support they have provided to us during this time. You are appreciated !

Geoff Battimelli, Division Manager



For services to the Island Division, Sandi Field was awarded the COVETED Emcon Vest.

Sandi has wanted one of these vest since they were first awarded many years ago in Area 13, where she was an included stock person, and did not get one.

Now she has one, she is very happy and it looks very good!!



This is quite the crew. Do you recognize anyone in this gang?

**Emcon Services Inc.**

105 - 1121 McFarlane Way  
 Merritt, BC  
 V1K 1B9  
 Canada

Phone: 250-378-4176  
 Fax: 250-378-4106

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.emconservices.org](http://www.emconservices.org)

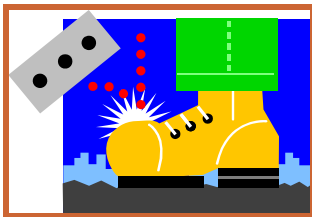


*Road, Bridge & Mechanical Mtnce.*

**Emergency Response Plan**

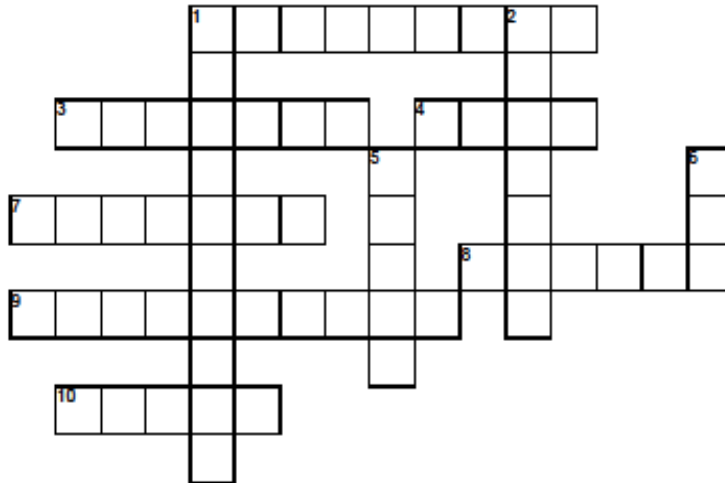
- Have you prepared an Emergency Response Plan for your workplace?
- Have you tested it?
- Who is the main contact person?
- How do you contact that person?
- What kind of emergencies are likely to happen in your workplace?
- Where is the Fire Alarm? Fire Extinguisher? PPE? Emergency Communication equipment?
- Where are the Emergency Contact numbers located? Fire ? Police ? Ambulance ? Hospital? Other ?

Every workplace needs to have an ERP and ensure that all workers are aware of the procedures in the event of an emergency.



Try your hand at this Safety Crossword, photocopy this and send in your completed puzzle for a Safety Prize. Send by land mail, fax—250-378-4106 or email to [jhall@emconservices.ca](mailto:jhall@emconservices.ca). Good Luck! Don't forget to put your name on your puzzle.

**Accident Prevention**



**ACROSS**

1. Taking \_\_\_\_ is not following procedures
3. \_\_\_\_ any tool before using
4. An "almost" accident: a \_\_\_\_ miss
7. Report these to your supervisor
8. After an accident you must make a \_\_\_\_
9. Missing guards are called unsafe \_\_\_\_
10. Never leave material on the \_\_\_\_ where they could become a trip hazard

**DOWN**

1. Who you tell about hazards
2. To do any job you must be \_\_\_\_
5. Danger \_\_\_\_ are posted in hazardous areas
6. An unsafe \_\_\_\_ is careless behavior