

The Link

Volume 4, Issue 1

April 2011



"Falling objects can be brutal if you don't protect your noodle"

Inside this issue:

Tow Plow Unit	2
Bits 'N' Pieces	3
Beaverdell Hotel	4
BC One Call	4
The TWO Unit	5
Pink Shirt Day / Christmas Parade	6
Jr. Bridge Supt.	7
Hoomac Lake Rest	7
Health & Safety	8
Seat Belt Award	8
Employer of the Year	8

Beaverdell Volunteer Fire Dept. sends thanks to Gary Spencer for keeping the access to the water at the loading site on the river and the pond open during the winter months.

Your work is greatly appreciated.

**Bill Wellwood
Fire Chief**

The Tow Plow Unit Working on the Island Highway



LEADING THE WAY Motorists follow patiently behind the Tow Plow, the latest addition to Emcon's fleet. Covering both lanes, the plow is impossible to pass but the driver will occasionally pull over to let drivers go ahead if road conditions are reasonable. Story, A3.

PHOTO BY CHERYL WALSH

Continued on Page 2



THE IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING Tow Plow is 24 feet wide and 80 feet long and deans roads in a hurry. The Valley has the island's only Tow Plow.

PHOTO BY CHERYL WALSH

Emcon rolls out a road-clearing behemoth

Cheryl Walsh
Record Staff

Emcon Services Inc. has a new weapon in their war on wintery road conditions.

Anticipating heavy snowfalls this season, they wanted to be as prepared as possible. So in October, they added the Tow Plow to their fleet. At 24 feet wide and 80 feet long, costing \$100,000, the new acquisition is making their job a lot easier.

What previously took numerous trips and hours of cleanup time, now takes just one clean sweep. Stretching across two highway lanes from the centre line all the way to the fog line, the Tow Plow consists of a regular plow truck that tows a trailer

behind it.

When ready to be put to use, the side plow extends out from the truck, the towing trailer swings around the side and runs parallel to the truck, and snow, be-gone. If you find yourself traveling behind this machine, the process may appear as though the truck is jackknifing. But don't worry, that's what is supposed to happen.

Larry Hunt, Emcon's first Tow Plow operator, said that before the plow arrived, there was a lot of skepticism and doubt, but then said, "I saw the benefits the first time I tried it. One pass does what three used to."

Heavy snowfalls from previous years have contributed to the need for the recent purchase, but

"This heavy-duty piece of equipment doesn't just plow the snow, it can also hold up to 18 cubic metres of salt, sand or solution. After snow has finished falling, the roads can ice in as quickly as 15 minutes. With all of the advancing technology, it only makes sense that this truck can take care of all situations."

Emcon operations manager Justin Burgers says, "the company is always in search of new technologies to better service the traveling public."

These plows are manufactured in Ontario and are mainly used on the East Coast. There are only three of them in British Columbia and this is the only one located on the Island.

The plow services the Island Highway from Hamm Road all the way down to Cook Creek. Hunt also said that he would happily go to Campbell River or Parksville as well, if they needed the extra help.

The plow is ideally used on highways, but can easily be used on single lane roads.

The driver can control

the angle of the rear plow by simply pressing a button located on a control panel beside the driver's seat.

This heavy-duty piece of equipment doesn't just plow the snow, it can also hold up to 18 cubic metres of salt, sand or solution. After snow has finished falling, the roads can ice in as quickly as 15 minutes. With all of the advancing technology, it makes sense that this truck can take care of all situations.

Depending on road conditions, the Tow Plow can travel anywhere from 50-70 km/h. It gets a lot of strange looks from passersby, so Emcon wanted to let everyone know exactly what it is and why they've purchased it.

Burgers also wants to

remind the public that it is never safe to pass any plow. "When their lights are flashing, they're plowing, so keep your distance because the winter abrasive does bounce," he added.

Emcon is also part of the Shift to Winter Campaign. The campaign is a joint partnership between BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation, BC Trucking Association, ICBC, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the RCMP, Worksafe BC and road maintenance contractors in B.C. The campaign gives tips and helpful hints on how to get prepared for winter driving.

More information is available at www.worksafebc.com, as well as www.drivebc.com.

Article from the Record Newspaper

Bits 'N' Pieces

Jeans & Jersey Day

Since its inception in 1991, Jeans Day™ has raised over \$11.7 million for BC Children's Hospital. Money raised from Jeans Day™ directly benefits the BC Children's Hospital Excellence in Child Health Fund. Contributions to this fund go to the areas of greatest need at BC Children's Hospital, providing the essential services, research and advanced technology necessary to make leading pediatric care accessible to the province's one million children. Last year the event raised \$1,280,735. This is a great cause and the folks at the Grand Forks Office helped in the fund raising efforts and wore their jeans and Canucks jerseys to support BC Children's Hospital. Way to go guys!!



Above: Sally Sofonoff, Ken Lawson & Holly Borisenkoff support BC Children's Hospital.

A New Addition to the Island Division



This little bundle of joy was born on January 11, 2011 (1-11-11!!) to Tara and Danny Bursey in Comox, BC. Tara Bursey, the Receptionist in the Cumberland Office, is now enjoying motherhood.



The Emcon Corporate Team Welcomes Corinna!



Corinna Francis, Date Entry Clerk, has joined the Corporate Office Emcon Team. Corinna's husband is an RCMP Officer, so Corinna has lived in many places around BC. Corinna has varied experience in office procedures. She says she "loves to file" so we are happy she is here to data entry payroll and then file the cards away! Welcome Corinna.



"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." - Albert Einstein

Historic Building Goes Up In Flames



Photograph by: Barry McDivitt, CHBC

The charred remains of the Beaverdell Hotel near Kelowna.

The historic Beaverdell Hotel near Kelowna burned to the ground early Monday morning. Witnesses say the blaze started around 2 a.m. on March 28, 2011. The intense heat from the fire cracked windows in businesses across the street and had nearby homeowners concerned for their own structure.

The cause of the fire is unknown and no injuries have been reported. The wood-frame hotel was built in 1901 and claimed to be the oldest continuously operating hotel in British Columbia.

© Copyright (c) CHBC News

Read more: <http://new.canada.com/news/Historic+Kelowna+area+hotel+burns+ground/4516965/story.html#ixzz1I7aoTWPJ>



Spring / Summer is just around the corner and we will soon be doing our spring / summer maintenance.

Don't Forget to call BC One Call before you dig.!

Oops-No Call to BC One Call Here!



The TWO Unit–Traction Watcher



The Traction Watcher or TWO Unit is made in Norway and was introduced in the fall, with training provided in Merritt.

The unit measures the traction of the road surface in varying weather conditions. This information can then be used to improve our highway inspections and measure the effectiveness of our road treatment in Winter Storm events.

The training outlined the data program and the information that is calculated and displayed. The program is installed on a laptop in the cab of the truck where the TWO Unit is attached to. The program provides two main options— measure a road or print a report of a road already measured.

The first step is to measure a road. The computer needs to read the friction testing machine and indicate if it is connected to a GPS. When ready to measure the road there are a few different options:

- Slush—we don't use this option
- Measure—with 60 kg down pressure continuous
- Inspect—30 kg continuous until the unit shows red and then apply 60 kg pressure
- Spot—30 kg at intervals (operator can set up the intervals to measure)

Some of the information that is collected while driving is:

- Speed in KM
- Current friction / Average friction
- Minimum friction recorded during single trip
- Trip length, air temp, road surface temp, dew point.



After measurements have been completed, the data can then be exported to a server either wirelessly or through network connections. All users that have privileges to access this information are then able to import this data, including any reports and graphs. The graphs show distance covered versus the amount of friction detected.

The TWO unit must be calibrated each time additional weight is introduced to the truck or when the TWO unit is removed from the truck. The laptop is hooked into the pickup and the relay box turned on. The calibration is done with the hanging scale on the telespar frame hooked onto the back wheel. The hydraulic control lowers the wheel to the appropriate weight. The closer to the ground the wheel is, the more accurate the reading is.

This unit could improve our before and after storm and freezing maintenance. The unit will give us data before applications of winter abrasives and also after applications. We can keep records on where and when we need to apply more sand or salt during various storms. It could also be useful in our highway inspections.

At this point in time this was only a trial period to try to ascertain if this would be something we would want to add to our fleet for winter maintenance.



Dennis Sarabia and Alex Wang calibrating the TWO Unit.



Pink Shirt Day 2011

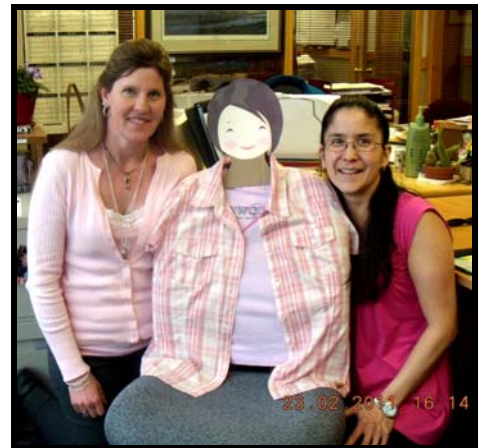
Pink Shirt Day in Canada—The idea is that everyone wears a pink T-shirt to school, to bring an awareness to bullying.

It was initiated four years ago, after a student in Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school, and now the initiative has taken off across the country -- and none too soon. Bullying has become completely out of hand, especially with all the various social networking sites available to kids.



Recently there was a school here in Vancouver where a group of kids had a Facebook contest for the "ugliest girl in school". The loser (winner?) of the contest not only dropped out of that school, she dropped out of school altogether. She is 13 years old. Middle school girls are notoriously the worst bullies of all, and every school has more than its share of "mean girls".

No one wants to deal with bullies, and that includes workplace bullies. Bullying is not acceptable in any form, and the folks in authority in schools and workplaces need to stop being intimidated by bullies. Support **"Pink Shirt Day"** and stop the bullying... That is just what the Corporate Office Staff in Merritt did. Shown here are Marlo Fosbery, Vicki Geier (just a dressed chair, as she was away that day) and April Schneider. A challenge to all offices for next year "Let's see who can be the best dressed on "Pink Shirt Day 2012."



Christmas Parade—A Group Effort

Darrin Wasiliew & family, Damian Girard, Leah Hurrell and Keith Langhorn worked on their own time to get the new Sterling Bridge Truck ready for the Cumberland Truck parade. They decided if they win any prize monies they will go to the Food Bank. Unfortunately they did not place this year - but a great effort anyway.



Junior Bridge Superintendent Appointment



Kent Porter, Quality Assurance Trainee, accepts the position of Junior Bridge Supervisor for Area 3 North Island.

Kent will be working towards a permanent Bridge Supervisor position after a period of acclimatization and experience.

Kent has been working on the Bridge Inspection Course through BCIT.

Congratulations Kent!



Solar Powered Rest Area—A Green Site



The Hoomac Lake Rest Area, which has solar powered composting toilets is over 20 years old. In order to keep the batteries charged in the winter during long rainy cloudy times, it requires the use of a generator at times to maintain the charge. It was decided to change the 20+year old batteries to a new modern type which also didn't need water added. Along with that, a new controller was added and a small wind powered

generator to help out during those times of the year with less daylight and sun. Once complete its is expected we will no longer need to backfill with a gas powered generator, making it a truly **green site**.

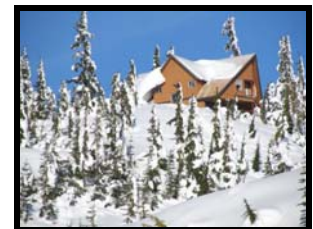


Solar Power & Wind Generation

Mt. Washington—Record Snow Pack—A Winter Wonderland

“As of March 16 we had a total of 1,740 centimeters of snowfall since the beginning of the season,” explains resort spokesperson Brent Curtain. “I've never seen snow accumulate like this and I can't believe the size of the some of the snow banks around here.”

And the Road Crew in Cumberland has to deal with that. Pictures are worth a thousand words and here are some to attest to the mounds of snow the crews had to deal with.



Health & Safety Week 2011

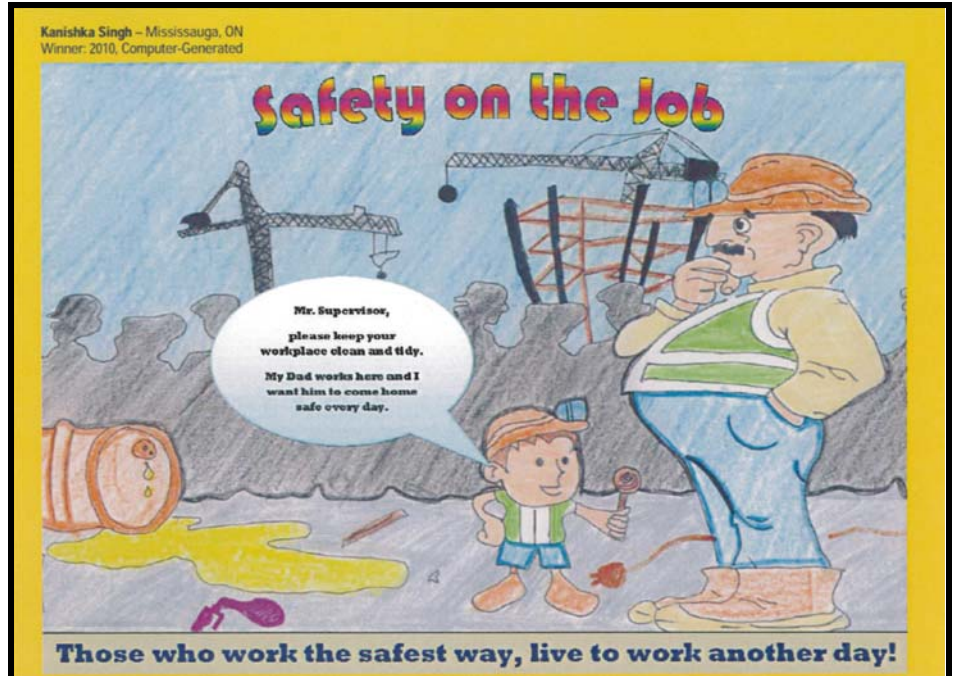
Emcon Services Inc.

Unit 105
1121 McFarlane Way
Merritt, BC V1K 1B9

Phone: 250-378-4176
Fax: 250-378-4106
Email: jhall@emconservices.ca

We're on the Web!
www.emconservices.org

Road & Bridge
Maintenance Contractor



Seat Belt Survivor

Rob Konkin, Grand Forks Operator, was awarded a Seat Belt Survivor Safety Award on December 9, 2010. If Rob had not been wearing his seat belt when his accident occurred he may not have been with us to receive this award. Congratulations on being a "Seat Belt Survivor"!



A children's poster contest was held for NAOSH Week and a Calendar was made with the winning pictures. The poster above "says it all"!

May 1 – 7, 2011

NAOSH Week is an annual community-wide commitment to put safety in the context and circumstances of the people and places around us—it's not just about ourselves. The commitment is a strong affirmation of the importance of health and safety and how *everyone* must make it a priority and a way of life.

Reinforce our Safety Message: What's Your Plan?

NAOSH Week 2011 offers excellent opportunities to enhance safe practices. The theme for 2011 focuses our thoughts on the beginning stage of *safety* – the planning stage. Ask yourself this year what your plan for *safety* is – make *safety* a top priority and determine the steps to do the job right the first time without taking risky shortcuts.

Remember: Planning with *safety* in mind, prevents accidents before they happen! By planning, we ensure that *safety* becomes apart of our daily practice and always stays top-of-mind.

Employer of the Year Award



The Corporate Office Staff in Merritt nominated Frank Rizzardo for the Employer of the Year Award via the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. Frank has been a caring, supportive President and we all felt he was deserving of this award. Congratulations Frank on being the recipient of the Employer of the Year Award—we think you are the Best!

