



## HOT TOPICS

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◀ The mobile equipment crew helped maintain the sensitive environmental aspects at Hospital Beach with shoreline protection to better manage erosion. Alcan's Hospital Beach is now officially open to the public.



## CORPORATE IN THE COMMUNITY



**Lee Luka** accepted an airline ticket from **Paul Henning** to participate at Alcan's Dragon Boat Festival in Vancouver. He's back to work now, but said he totally appreciated the wonderful experience.

# Dragon Boat winner named

**Alcan congratulates Lee Luka, winner of a trip to the Alcan Dragon Boat Festival in Vancouver.**

**A**lcan BC was the title sponsor of this year's International Dragon Boat Festival in Vancouver, and held a draw to select an Alcan employee who would help judge the festival's "Aluminum Chef" competition.

Kemano electrician Lee Luka entered the contest and won the trip for two to Vancouver, a prize presented by Paul Henning. Lee and his partner, pot replacement worker Tina Slanina, flew down to the Alcan Dragon Boat races on June 16.

Lee's prize included return airfare from Terrace to Vancouver, two nights' accommodations at The Listel on Robson Street and V.I.P passes to the Festival. In addition to serving as a food judge, Lee was anxious to participate

in the opening ceremonies and all the other events.

A proud financial supporter of the Alcan Dragon Boat Festival for a decade, this year Alcan was also on site celebrating its 80-year history in China and hosting the Aluminum Chef cooking competition. Throughout the Alcan Dragon Boat Festival, Vancouver's finest aspiring chefs put their culinary skills to the test as they vied for the title of "Aluminum Chef." The only condition imposed on competitors from the Pacific Culinary Institute was that they use Alcan's new "Slide" foil during the cooking process.

Festival-goers were invited to play the Alcan World ring toss game at Alcan's China tent for a chance to win Alcan "Slide" non-stick aluminum foil, and an aluminum-framed mountain

bike was awarded to the visitor who most accurately estimated the number of cans in the belly of the "Alcanaroo."

The Alcan China tent also showcased various Alcan products and projects developed for the rapidly growing Chinese market. With over 3,300 employees, nine offices and eleven manufacturing plants, Alcan's China operations include the Alcan Ningxia aluminum smelter; six Alcan Propack facilities, which produce a full series of flexible packaging; Shenzhen NONFEMET, a joint venture partnership specializing in processing aluminum extrusions; Cebal Zhongshan, which manufactures aluminum cans; Suzhou Packaging, which produces beauty packaging materials; and Shanghai Composites, which produces aluminum composite panels.

# Safety and the two million mark

Employees of Alcan Primary Metal-BC achieved two million people hours without a lost time accident on June 6.

## Safety

Congratulations to our employees who have achieved two million people hours without a lost time accident. When we achieved the one million mark on February 10, I thought that was an exceptional safety milestone, but two million is truly remarkable and I say let's all boast and brag about this achievement.

It confirms my belief that our people scrutinize and are aware of the day to day hazards and risks in the workplace, and place high value on their own safety and that of their coworkers. Intuitively, their highly developed sensitivity to their internal 'safety barometer' helps to keep them safe and injury free.

Conversely, as a plant, we recognize our safety results at each of the plant entrance gates with our 'safety awareness indicator' and EHS Scoreboard signage. This is our 'safety barometer', gauging the improved safety awareness across the plant. Keep up the good work; let's go for three million hours.

To recognize this achievement, we are working with the CAW and are entertaining the idea of celebrating it with several family barbecues,

likely on the August long-weekend. In this way we will cover off all shifts. Stay tuned to celebration activities.

## Heat stress

As summer temperatures rise and the work environment heats up, do not forget to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and eating cool, light, nutritious foods. I have read in previous issues of *ingot*: a balanced diet restores and maintains ideal fluid and mineral levels and boosts heat tolerance.

Lettuce and watermelon replace water; cheese, canned soup or tomato juice replace salt; oranges and bananas replenish potassium. I recommend that employees drink a glass of water every 15 to 20 minutes.

Decreased alertness is one of the first signs of heat stress. So employees need to recognize the warning signs of heat disorders in themselves and their co-workers and know how to react. Heat stress occurs when the body gains heat faster than it can remove it and sodium levels decrease from excessive sweating.

Employees can get more information from our occupational health department.



Paul Henning

## Visit of the chairman of the board

The auspices visit by the chairman of Alcan's board of directors Yves Fortier; accompanied by senior vice president and APMG president CEO Cynthia Carroll; president of primary metal Asia and Pacific Marco Palmieri; Alcan board of

director Milton Wong, and APMG vice president corporate affairs and communications Erik Ryan is set for July 5.

Mr. Fortier is looking forward to his first visit of Kitimat Works and has coined it as a "Listening Tour." A very busy schedule is shaping up for the senior executives; plans include touring the facility, meeting and talking with employees, meeting the CAW, Local 2301 executive, the District of Kitimat, Haisla First Nation leaders and the K.T. Industrial Development Society.

This timely tour combined with our impressive EHS and production performance bodes well for our management team, our employees and our future. The District of Kitimat extended this invitation to Mr. Fortier during the Alcan General Meeting in the spring of 2005 and we are excited about their visit. Please extend a warm Kitimat welcome to this group.

## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY



# Hospital Beach back in business

Alcan's Hospital Beach is open for another summer.

After plenty of cleaning, landscaping and other preparations under the auspices of property administrator Yvonne Lee, Hospital Beach opened to the public again as of May 24.

Guided by environmental services engineer Shawn Zettler and executed by Mike Steponavicius' mobile equipment crew, the beach was cleaned and sloped, 300 tons of sand were brought in to expand the beach area, unwanted logs and rotting driftwood were removed, rebar was cut away from the beach's concrete barriers, rotten logs encircling the barbecue area were removed, and the area was sloped and seeded with grass.

Chief power engineer and water distribution leader Ed Florencio of utilities prepared the water line to the washroom facilities, ensuring the drinking water is safe with input from the Northern Health Authority, which included the installation of a timed valve to ensure flow of water to keep the chlorine

levels in the water to a required level. Supervisor Leo Raposo had his office facilities crew clean the facilities before opening day (and remove any "friendly creature" that might have moved in); and general supervisor Paris Xilopinakas' wharf crew handled overall clean-up of the area and installation of refuse containers.

"Every summer, we make sure the area is clean for our fellow citizens of Kitimat," said Paris, who has been with Alcan since 1977. He, Leo and Ed all describe the beach as peaceful, serene, a nice place to relax.

Shawn helped ensure all the work was done in an environmentally sound manner, and oversaw some shoreline protection efforts, managing erosion at the site. He thinks mobile equipment crew deserves some recognition, and is very impressed with how the operators have handled the site: "I think it's the best it's looked in many years."



Dave Ringham, Mario Santos and Shawn Zettler take a break from erosion control.



LME PRICES us\$ for 06/23/2006 [Previous Month]

CASH: ▼ \$2397 [\$2971]

3 MONTH: ▼ \$2437 [\$2994]

# BRAVO recognizes employee contributions

Recognizing employees creates an engaged, committed and dedicated workforce.

**W**hat is BRAVO? If you haven't heard of, participated in, or won a Nathanael V. Davis Award, a recognition program for employees of Alcan Inc. worldwide, you might want to 'listen up' on how the new BRAVO recognition program supports it. BRAVO is Alcan Primary Metal Group's (APMG) new program to recognize employee contributions, in the following categories: *EHS FIRST*; finance/cost; continuous improvement; customer service; innovation; team work; leadership, and sustainability.

### Aim and objective of BRAVO

The Alcan global survey continues to show that there is a need to improve employee recognition. Overall, less than half of APMG employees are satisfied or motivated to do an exceptional job because of a perceived lack of recognition.

This situation needs to improve and the answer came to program sponsor and our director of operations Paul Henning who was an active member of the committee that developed the BRAVO program.

He sponsored the development of a recognition program that encourages sustainability and linking it to our business targets, and focuses on the principles of regular performance feedback, employee involvement, supervisor and management visibility and daily and sincere praise for a job well done.

The objective is to instill and to develop employee pride and ownership in our business, as well as fostering closer relationships within the communities and regions, where we operate.

### APMG BRAVO Award

The BRAVO Award compliments the Nathanael V. Davis Award and uses the same categories and process, so that there isn't any duplication of effort.

The APMG nominations that were unsuccessful for the Davis Award are then eligible for the BRAVO Award. We encourage you to revisit the Nathanael V. Davis Award on Alcan's intranet SOURCE to review the program.

CEO Cynthia Carroll and her team review the nominations and announce the BRAVO Award winners after the Davis Award during a formal awards presentation and celebration annually. This year, two Quebec teams won: Grande Baie for a furnace project and Arvida for leadership in action.

### Business Unit / Functional BRAVO Award

Asia Pacific business unit president Marco Palmieri and his team will review the nominations and announce the BRAVO Award winners once a year, based on best practices in the categories of *EHS FIRST*; finance/cost; continuous improvement; customer service; innovation; team work; leadership and sustainability.

Asia Pacific plants include: Kitimat, China and Cameroon. The winners will receive an elegantly etched class sail boat trophy and the opportunity to travel (with spouse/partner) internationally to one of the Asia Pacific plants for the celebration.

### Plant BRAVO

Supervisors and superintendents will recommend teams and individuals to the director of operations Paul Henning and the management team, who will review entries based on team and individual successes across the organization. A formal award presentation will be held twice a year, likely in July and January, where the management team will acknowledge the winners and celebrate the event with spouse/partner/friend.

### Supervisory BRAVO

Supervisors will also begin employing the BRAVO beliefs in their day to day work, and will recognize and praise employees through individual feedback during crew meetings as well as recording initiatives by those individuals and/or teams on the formal recognition system for possible entry to the BRAVO Awards program.



Stay tuned for more news and details on BRAVO!

## Nechako Reservoir at-a-Glance



### Current elevation

As of June 7, the reservoir elevation was 2795.9 feet above sea level.

### Long-term average

The long-term average for this time of year is 2793.91 feet above sea level.

### Inflows

The inflow into the reservoir during May was 292.6 cubic meters per second. The reservoir storage at present is 126.7 per cent of the long-term average storage.

### Spillway discharge

Spillway discharge is currently set at 49 cubic meters per second.

# KHALE hits new high

The KHALE project is celebrating highest-ever amperage on line 7.

**K**itimat High Amperage Lower Energy (KHALE) is an APM-BC project at Kitimat Works, an optimization strategy designed to increase metal production while decreasing energy use. This is achieved through an upgrade of the rectifier controls and pot-efficiency enhancements, including raw-material and process-control improvements.

Technical services superintendent and head of the plant's KHALE team, Louis Thiffault spelled out their goal in previous *ingot* coverage: "Our objective is to increase the operating amperage of the pot without generating additional heat. This means we'll use less electricity per tonne produced."

As of May, line 7 was running at 134 kiloamperes (kA). This is a historical level of amperage for Kitimat, and a higher amperage than forecasted in the project development. As the project's R&D engineer Valerie Toupin explains, they gradually increased line 7's amperage pots, and plan on



Some members of the KHALE project team took time out to cut the cake in celebration. From left, Steve Tomlinson, Jacques Losier, Gilberto Silva, Valerie Toupin and Doug Hamilton.

expanding the cathode upgrades throughout lines 3 to 8. "One little step at a time," she observed.

## Celebrating success

In recognition of the KHALE project's success, a celebratory gathering was held on May 2, following a management meeting, a thank-you luncheon was served for the project participants, and Valerie ran a slide show presentation outlining

KHALE's progress in detail. After the presentation, cake was served.

Is Valerie excited about the project's progress to date? "Oh, yeah!" she exclaimed with a laugh. "The results are great." And the ongoing tests may yet yield further benefits. "It's going to take more time to see the project's full potential."

Louis has noted that the new cathodes present both opportunities and challenges. He sometimes likens

the increased amperage to driving a high-powered car — you get where you're going faster, but you have to develop more and better control to harness that speed properly.

## Background

The KHALE project began in 2004 with the objective of increasing the operating amperage by five per cent in lines 3 to 8 via automation of the rectifier controls, and by reducing specific energy consumption through a new cathode design, developed by Steve Tomlinson during an earlier project.

Over a period of months, the performance of the redesigned pots was tracked and compared to a control group of standard-design pots (the ten youngest pots in line 7 with an old-style cathode design). Parameters tracked included thermal balance and cell performance, anode operation, environmental performance and metal production. The most notable result was a clear increase in amperage, the highest ever recorded on the line.

## COMMUNITY

# History takes flight

Alcan has helped retrieve a rare historical artifact in Kitimat.

Kitimat Works, Canadian Helicopters and the Kitimat Centennial Museum have joined forces to bring a unique piece of local history out of the wilderness.

That piece of history is a mechanical stump-puller, dating perhaps as far back as 1912. It came from the Kowthpighah Ranch, established by the late 19th Century Anderson family. George Anderson came to Kitimaat Village as a lay preacher in 1885, but after a falling out with the Methodist community, he became a rancher along what is now Anderson Creek.

The Andersons left Kitimat in 1928, and the ranch was abandoned by 1940. Much of the site has been washed away by erosion or submerged by the delta dike built in 1962, but the ranch's old kerosene-powered stump-puller has been discovered and rediscovered by various locals since 1966.

Due to its remote location and the difficult terrain, the bulky antique remained on the banks of the Kitimat River Estuary until this past May. That's when Canadian Helicopters and Alcan personnel airlifted the machine back to Kitimat Works in pieces. A museum team led by curator Louise Avery had already catalogued and prepped the artifact, and Alcan environmental engineer Shawn Zettler had helped plan the operation with minimal environmental impact. Andrew Simpson's

power line crew were also key participants in the artifact's retrieval.

Mike Long directed Alcan's efforts, and he credits museum board member Walter Thorne with sparking the antique's retrieval, Walter being one of the latest to rediscover the piece. Louise, in turn, thanks Alcan and Canadian Helicopters for donating resources to this project, and she hopes to put the piece on display soon. Anyone interested in helping repair or restore the machine can mail her at [kitimatmuseum@telus.net](mailto:kitimatmuseum@telus.net) or phone (250) 632-8950.



Power line technicians retrieve stump-puller.

### KHALE'S Plant Team

KHALE'S Plant Team	Role during project
Gilberto Silva	KHALE Process Consultant
Doug Hamilton	KHALE Process Technician
Louis Thiffault	Reduction Technical and Operational Support Superintendent and Kitimat representative for KHALE
Fred Stevenson	Operations Coordinator L7&8
Jacques Losier	Controlman L7
Doug Marentette	Process Technician L7&8
Jim Fisk, Jim Boyd, Dave Bikowski and Morgan Reese-Hansen	Supervisors L7&8
Don Markwart	Senior Process Engineer L1-8
Steve Tomlinson	Potting Technical Superintendent
Suzana Clemente	Process Engineer L7&8 and former Black Belt

### KHALE ARDC Team

KHALE ARDC Team	Role during project
Valerie Toupin	R&D Engineer and KHALE project leader
Brent Volk	Black Belt and former KHALE project leader
Claude Richard	Program Director
Rene Garipey	former Program Director
Didier Chaix, Real Cormier, Normand Letendre, Guy Pedneault, Ghislain Perron	Process Technicians

### KHALE Power Operations Team

KHALE Power Operations Team	Role during project
Dave Dhaliwal	former Power Operations Superintendent
Georges Weeks	Principal Engineering Coordinator
Dale Webster	Senior Electrical Control Technician
Andrew Simpson	System Operations, Transmission & Distribution

# A sinking feeling but surviving

**A vacation that quite literally turned into a living nightmare, an emotionally draining experience and a materially expensive trip.**

**T**he *M/V Queen of the North* plied the Inside Passage between Port Hardy on Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert in northwest B.C. for about 25 years. On March 22, 2006, at about 12:30 a.m. it struck Gil Island, 135 kilometers south of Prince Rupert. The wreckage rests, submerged at a depth of 425 meters in Wright Sound.

Alcan's garage supervisor Ryan McDonald and his partner Jill Lawrence survived the sinking of the *M/V Queen of the North*, along with 99 of 101 passengers and crew.

## The journey

Ryan and Jill were excited to begin their vacation to visit family in Duncan on Vancouver Island and especially to see her mom, and her dad, who was receiving radiation and chemotherapy treatment for esophageal cancer.

They choose to travel by ferry — on the *M/V Queen of the North*. Jill's friends, Maria and Alex Kotai, who recently retired from Eurocan, were also on the ferry to move household goods and valuables. Jill offered them space in her vehicle.

They enjoyed an evening of dinner, celebration and playing cards. It was midnight when Jill and Ryan turned in. Ryan read the evacuation instructions, found the life preservers; chuckling, never thinking anything would happen.

Ryan just got to sleep, while Jill was reading her e-book; a loud banging, grinding, crunching, shuddering noise occurred and Jill thought it sounded like the ship docking. The engines shut down and the alarms went off, they knew their waking nightmare had just begun.

## The nightmare

Jill's purse and contents were scattered everywhere; Ryan was yelling at her to forget the purse, get your shoes, coat and life preserver on. Leaving the cabin, crews were already calmly directing people to the muster stations.

Once Jill evacuated to a lifeboat, Ryan stayed on board to help some of the crew to evacuate passengers, and then he and the 12 crew members abandoned ship. Riding a rough ocean, the crews quickly tied a lanyard to all lifeboats, ensuring everyone's safety and putting some distance from the listing ferry.

Jill recalled sitting in the lifeboat, wet, cold and shivering and holding on to strangers' hands and being in complete darkness waiting. "I recall hearing the voices of the persons sitting next to me, I didn't know who they were, what they looked like. I'll never forget their voices," she said. Ryan added, "There wasn't any urgency to leave, we were tied up, drifting and waiting."

## The sinking

Ryan described the historic sinking of the *M/V Queen of the North*. "The ferry was fully illuminated,



**Jill and Ryan** pose in their backyard holding the only possessions remaining from that fateful ferry trip — Jill's truck keys and jacket, and Ryan — the ferry cabin keys.

you could see it listing, when it was 40 or 50 degrees, a series of explosions occurred and the lights went out. I think it was the *Lonestar*, who put its spotlights on it then. It was sinking stern first, straight up, just like the movie *Titanic*.

"Ten maybe 15 seconds later it began descending into the depths, the air pressure blowing out the windows. It was gone. It was dead quiet. It was about a minute before anyone said anything," Ryan recalled, "I'll never forget that image, or the silence. It was eerie. It was finality."

## The rescue

Rescue operators began transporting passengers to Hartley Bay. Ryan boarded the *Mad Maxx*, a speedboat and if you know Ryan, you know he's a racing car driver and by this time, absolutely thrilled to speed landward. Meanwhile, a freezing Jill boarded a shrimp boat, arriving at Hartley Bay an hour and a half later.

"It was worrisome waiting for Jill, because you just never know," Ryan said. It was pouring rain when Jill and others got to Hartley Bay, finding relief, a tremendous welcome and being wrapped up into blankets. Jill said she was so thankful that she gave one surprised individual a big kiss.

"I walked into the community center and burst into tears when I saw Ryan. After only hearing his voice floating on the waves in another lifeboat, I was so glad to see him." At the community hall everyone signed in. At this critical juncture, rescuers and BC Ferries crews began to realize that one couple was missing. News reports today suggest that the couple likely perished along with the ferry.

## Consequences

Ryan and Jill were interviewed by Global News while at Hartley Bay. "Actually, doing that first

interview was beneficial because we were able to let our parents, our kids and our friends know we were okay," Ryan said.

They soon lost the energy to explain what they still couldn't believe had happened or speculated as to what happened. "We were bombarded; it was too much, the media weren't disrespectful, but they wanted a story, any story," Jill recalled.

Spending a sleepless night at Hartley Bay before boarding the *CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier* to head back to Prince Rupert many of the passengers gathered on the balcony of the longhouse to watch the sunrise over a serenely calm ocean.

"My first thought," Ryan said, "was why it took an incident like this to see how beautiful Hartley Bay is. I think all of us were mindful of how truly lucky we were."

Returning to reality in Prince Rupert, the media was everywhere but they were quickly loaded on to a bus and taken to the hotel. Passengers and crews were segregated, meeting with representatives from BC Ferries and various insurance agencies. The passengers received a stipend to purchase necessary staples. Jill and Ryan were at the hotel for four days arranging documentation of vehicle and lost possessions.

## Overwhelmed

Jill and Ryan are still dealing with the financial repercussions of lost valuables, but it's the emotional turmoil that weighs heavily — the overwhelming memory of the experience; the anxiety that hits out of the blue, sleepless nights, forgetfulness, and distraction, reliving and comprehending what happened to them.

"When we started hearing about some of the crew below the vehicle deck, wading through chest deep water, it hit us," Ryan said. "We never realized how traumatic it was for them. They never showed it. They maintained absolute, calm control. They were very professional."

The couple was offered counselling services and assistance by many people. Ryan particularly thanks Alcan for offering to help them continue on their holiday, but after the upheaval, they found they had too much to cope with, from re-establishing their financials to dealing with replacing material possessions and getting a new vehicle to attempting to heal.

"I'm obsessed about finding out why it happened, what caused it, was it human error, was it mechanical error, or was it a computer navigational error?" Ryan said. "I search the web and watch the news to see if there is any new information."

If there is anything this couple has learned from the experience — Jill said life can be over in a minute, it doesn't matter how safe you think you are. Ryan added, "As much as you feel that you have control of your life, you are only in control of the little things, and the big things; well that's definitely out of your control."



# NAOSH Week promotion

## Kitimat Works hosted an education

NAOSH Week came to Kitimat again as of April 30. American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) was created to promote safer practices and lifestyles for workers and their families, but spread to Mexico and the United States via the National



First aid attendant **Debbie Soltau** lends a hand at the KKOHS&E and CAW booths.

The Canadian Society of Safety Engineers (CSSE) is responsible for NAOSH Week, and the event's Alcan component is run through the Kitimat-Kemano Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Committee (KKOHS&E). In recent times, NAOSH events at Kitimat Works have been overseen by EHS supervisor and 32-year Alcan veteran Celeste Raposo. "A major focus now is on young workers in the workplace," she explained, "giving them a good overall awareness of workplace hazards."

### Review. Refresh. Revitalize

This year's NAOSH Week theme was "Review. Refresh. Revitalize." The "review" part encourages employees to examine or question existing health and safety practices, the "refresh" component urges employees to revise and improve their practices, and the "revitalize" aspect promises employees that better health and safety practices will help ensure a better life, both at home and in the workplace.

### 2006 Events

One of the highlights of NAOSH Week 2006 was a Family Safety Day hosted at the Alcan Tour Building. Alcan employees and their families enjoyed free hot dogs and pop, balloons, door prizes, face painting and clowns, as well as a wide variety of special exhibitions and activities. These included a health and wellness fair, information tables for both the KKOHS&E & the CAW, fire extinguisher and fire truck demonstrations, forklift demonstrations, and a "Fatal Vision" booth using specially doctored goggles and a short obstacle course to show visitors the dangers of impaired vision.

NAOSH events later that same week included an evacuation drill at Building 276, a work safety presentation for Grade 11 students at Mount Elizabeth Secondary School (MESS), a "man overboard" drill at the plant wharf, a Hazardous Waste Material Roundup, an evacuation drill at lines 1&2, a NAOSH Week presentation and plant tour conducted for Grade 12 MESS students, and more.

There were also several quizzes and contests held in conjunction with NAOSH Week such as the Hazardous Materials Quiz, Waste Disposal Quiz, Safety Cartoon Caption Contest and Children's Drawing Contest.

Community support for the event included a NAOSH banner display on the Haisla Boulevard overpass, NAOSH posters displayed by various retailers, a NAOSH flag raising at the Fire Hall, a mayoral proclamation of NAOSH Week, and promotional campaigns in local newspapers and radio stations.



Alcan kids loved the balloons, clowns and face painting.



NAOSH fire truck demonstration.

# ...es safer, healthier life

## ...al and entertaining NAOSH Week

through May 6, and it was a great success. North week is a continent-wide event promoting healthier, families. It started out as a strictly Canadian event, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks.

### Impact

Celeste thinks NAOSH events are gradually having an impact, especially among the young: "They pick up things...it makes them step back a little bit and think about what they've heard." More broadly, she hopes that NAOSH events help convey the importance of safety to employees and their families, both inside and outside the workplace. "We just want to make an educational impact on an annual basis. The important thing is keeping everybody safe at work, and safe at home at the end of the day."



One youngster blows up his own balloon.



NAOSH WEEK QUIZ WINNERS — for hazardous materials was **Lucas Kirby**; waste disposal was **Elizabeth Carter**; Alcan safety cartoon caption was **Jane MacDougall, Laura Taylor and Keith Card**; children's drawing contest winners was **Jacob Cordeiro, Julia Piroso and Baylei Ribeiro**. CONGRATULATIONS!



Alcan plant protection crews put on fire extinguisher demonstrations.



Kids and clowns, a great combination during NAOSH day.



Alcan casting employees **Reg Roy** and **Rick Costain** do forklift demonstrations.

# Coke crews shine in Kitimat

**Kitimat Works' coke crews take challenges and changes in stride.**

**T**he coke calcining facility may be tucked away in a corner of Kitimat Works, but its excellent work is getting noticed all the same. As operation and technical staff said, the coke crews deserve recognition for dealing with coke management and calcining operation's historical changes in terms of cooperation, initiatives, adaptability, inventory control and product quality care.

## Changes and challenges

The past year has brought the coke team some high-profile challenges, notably dwindling coke supply and the resultant need to purchase, store, blend and calcine more and different types of coke from a wider range of suppliers around the world, such as China.

As an example, for the first time, each potential coke source available in 2005 exceeded one or several customer critical specifications (sulfur, nickel, vanadium, density, cost, etc.) along with some uncertainty (unknown sources for Kitimat, quality variability and small volume available).

In processing these new and varied coke supplies, the crews have managed to keep the calcined coke's quality consistent while keeping pace with production. As paste manufacturing coordinator Olivier Rival related their efforts have been key in sustaining production, and controlling costs and coke blend quality and purity, as noticeable in the different customer's areas.

Coke operator Carlo Galante thinks Olivier's cooperation with the coke crews has contributed to their success. "He gives us credit," said Carlo, "he listens to us, he takes our suggestions."

Coke crews also recently began working with Kilnmax, a new automated system designed to optimize kiln operation, and quickly got up to speed with the new technology, though supervisor Dave Sivyer stressed how essential the human factor remains: "We still have to rely on the accumulated knowledge of each operator, which is very valuable to this company."

At the same time, operators have been trying to minimize ring build-up impacts (accumulations of slag in the kiln stemming from burned-off impurities during the calcination process and eventually to shutdown the production).

They also got deeply involved in a 12-month CI project design and realization by experimenting with lifting devices to see if agitating particular kinds of coke during particular stages of calcination could improve Vibrated Bulk Density (VBD); the principal measure of coke quality. This last project required additional, substantial transfers of coke from specific stockpiles, and ongoing care and documentation.

## Calling all operators

Operators tackled all of these tasks with determination, sometimes exceeding management expectations. To address ring



Coke calcining operators **Brent Adams** and **Andy Brousseau** are proud of their work and continually refining practices.

build-up, they suggested more scheduled shutdowns (implemented recently). Regarding coke supply, the operators helped develop a realistic 1.5 year green coke supply and storage management plan meeting costs, optimization, blend quality and EHS requirements.

As for the lifters, despite a certain amount of skepticism regarding these new devices, operators eventually gave the lifters experiments all possible support. During the testing, the shift operators managed to optimize and coordinate their daily tasks in such a way that they also created an additional 22,000-square-foot storage area, transferred almost a coke barge, and obviously did not limit their efforts or creativity to safely troubleshoot the calcining process, for the sake of the test success.

## Payoffs

The coke crews' efforts in all these areas resulted in multiple positive outcomes. Their buildup of an increased green coke inventory saved the cost of an additional coke shipment (roughly two hundred thousand dollars). Their commitment for triple thousand tons of thousands tons of coke to seize a strategic coke on the market saved above half a million over alternative sources and yielded improved VBD. They achieved or maintained compliance in all customer specification areas, and experimentation with lifters opened another avenue of possible VBD improvement. They did all of the above with no overtime, no recordable accidents since 1999 and no lost-time injuries since 1997.

These achievements have not gone unnoticed by supervisors J.R. Lebel and Dave Sivyer.

"The cooperation the operators gave us last year was impressive," J.R. recalled. "The extra work, the ideas and the feedback they gave us, all great." Dave concurs: "We have had a lot of changes, and the operators have adapted."

## Perfect ten?

There are ten operators, with at least two on duty at all times, and Dave said they need very little direction, taking the initiative wherever they can. "They're given the latitude to make justified operational decisions," he explained.

Andy Brousseau, a 20-year Alcan veteran and a coke operator for nine years, bears that out. "We try to keep things in-house if we can," Andy said, though he added that they call in the right people quickly when they encounter something they can't address. Brent Adams, a 26-year Alcan employee and an eight year coke crew veteran, agreed, though he noted they seem to need less outside assistance as they continue to refine their practices.

Dave says it takes about two years to train someone in the coke crews, and Andy thinks it takes even longer to settle in fully. "It takes probably three to four years before you're comfortable operating the kiln on your own," he estimated.

"It's all about buy-in," said Dave. "The operators are proud of what they do, and they do a good job. They have an excellent safety record, an excellent product record, and excellent quality control. That's a group that this company should be proud of."

# Handling hazardous energy

APM-BC aims to identify energy hazards in the workplace.



**A**lcan has undertaken a Hazardous Energy Control (HEC) Initiative designed to reduce energy-related injuries in its workforce. Kitimat Works' HEC steering team includes EHS superintendent Sandy Mackintosh, lines 7&8 operations and maintenance superintendent Mark Annibal, plant safety leader Nick Tremblay, casting OHS&E representative Bob Dugdale (replacing earlier participant Bernard Boucher) and safety co-op student Jessica Ling.

## Making plans

Based on recent accident statistics, vehicle/pedestrian incidents were the highest risk factor in Alcan facilities, and initiatives have already been pursued in that area, but HEC factors were easily the next highest risk factor; hence the ongoing focus on HEC strategy development in 2006.

Mark and Sandy were both invited to be part of the HEC Taskforce — which held a workshop in Montreal and an HEC action “road map” and training plan was drawn up. Specific local plans would be made in cooperation with Kitimat Works employees and management teams, detailing how HEC systems would be developed over the course of this year and fully implemented the following year; HEC management procedures would be established, HEC “hot spots” posing particularly high risk would be identified and dealt with, task based procedures (TBP) would be implemented for control of hazardous energy sources in the workplace, and lockout devices for emergency equipment shutdowns would be clearly labeled, visible and accessible.



Casting millwright **Ian Berrisford** understands the importance and supports identifying energy hazards and lockout devices in the workplace.

In some cases, these initiatives are already in place or underway at Kitimat Works, but the “road map” action plan will apply these standards throughout each plant consistently. A team of highly experienced people has been identified and invited to lead the journey towards HEC excellence. This will be done with the participation and involvement of as many employees as possible.

## Setting an example

The casting department at Kitimat Works has been singled out as an area already doing an excellent job in terms of identifying, labeling and controlling energy hazards. “What we have here in casting is perceived, by the HEC Taskforce, to be a benchmark,” said Sandy, and Mark agreed: “I believe Kitimat was well ahead of a lot of other plants in the casting divisions — a lot of its awareness, a lot of its attention to visual detail.” Look at casting, he says, and you’ll see plenty of signage, hazards clearly identified and equipment clearly labeled. “You’ve got to know you’ve identified the correct isolation point and have achieved zero energy before you begin the task.”

## Recognizing risks

Sandy and Mark agree that one of the biggest challenges is getting people to recognize particular types of energy hazards in their workplace. “Most people think electricity is the most hazardous energy we have,” said Mark. “It’s not. The biggest hazard is potential energy, which tends to be an unrecognized risk.” In this context, potential energy refers to the energy or force that can potentially be released by an object if it is set into motion, such as a load falling from a crane or the components of a hydraulic device shifting when not in use.

Training packages have been developed to help identify “hot spots” and unrecognized risks in each area of the plant. “We know where we want to go,” said Mark. “Now it’s just a matter of putting it into action.”

## IDENTIFYING HEC HOT SPOTS

1. Equipment without visible lockout or shut-off devices.
2. Equipment with shut-off devices used as energy controls.
3. Equipment/situations where visible shut-offs or start-up tests cannot be implemented.
4. Equipment with lockout points that are inaccessible or unidentified.
5. Equipment requiring frequent routine or emergency intervention (breakdowns, etc.).
6. Equipment that is remote-controlled or automated.
7. Equipment with unknown or unidentified energy sources.
8. Equipment that is kept running while checks, adjustments, or repairs are carried out.
9. Individuals who interpret established procedures differently.
10. Individuals who are required to carry out procedures, but are not available.
11. Individuals who decide not to carry out a procedure or do so only partially.
12. Process material not recognized or perceived as a hazardous energy source.
13. Ambient conditions (gas, dust, smoke, steam, noise, heat).
14. Restrictive weather conditions and confined space.
15. Tolerance of situations that do not comply with established procedures.
16. Co-activity within a given environment (interaction between two activities).
17. Individuals dealing with stressful situations (process, equipment, etc.).

## RECOGNITION: RETIREMENTS



### Larry Blackmore

A huge crowd of admirers and well-wishers filled the pipe shop on May 30 to celebrate the retirement of **Larry Blackmore**. A 30-year Alcan veteran and a pipe fitter for the past 24 years, Larry also served as a union safety rep, and colleagues praised him for listening to their concerns and acting on them. Guests at his retirement party enjoyed pastries and coffee while Larry was presented with his retirement plaque, fishing gear and other gifts. Some co-workers joked about confusing the jovial, bearded Larry with Santa Claus or Kenny Rogers when they first met him. Larry's favourite thing about his Alcan career? "All the wonderful people I've met over the past 30 years here." He and his wife plan to stay in Kitimat.



### Tony Costa

On June 1, the cathode lining and recovery crews held a retirement gathering in building 258 for supervisor **Tony Costa**, who had served just over 30 years with Alcan: five years in his latest position, preceded by a mobile equipment stint and some windshield repair. Tony's cathode/recovery successor, Guy Brais, presided over the event, while other speakers and gift presenters included Guy Mageau and Fernando Perestrelo. During his own remarks, Tony talked about being a new Canadian when he came to Alcan, and said his career felt like both a long time and a short time. He plans to stay in Kitimat.



### Dave Dhaliwal

Superintendent of power operations **Dave Dhaliwal** spent some special moments sharing stories and saying goodbye to colleagues and friends on his last day of work before retirement on June 1, 2006. A large gathering of people from across the smelter enjoyed coffee and donuts with Dave, as he exchanged information about the intricacies of power operations life and the many good times they had shared together. His colleagues were particularly appreciative of Dave's mentoring, while Dave particularly proud of and enjoyed celebrating many successes with his colleagues and their efforts operating a world class power operations division. After 17 years of dedicated service to the company, Dave is retiring to Surrey to enjoy traveling, golfing and volunteering his services to a variety of charities.



### Elgien Henriksen

After 39 years of service with Alcan, administrative services supervisor **Elgien Henriksen**, paid farewell to her many colleagues and friends in the main office building on May 24. Elgien is taking an extended vacation prior to official retirement. Human resources manager Josey Girard paid tribute to Elgien as an advocate of human rights, thanking her for her dedication and professionalism. Elgien has enjoyed many jobs with Alcan, beginning her career in payroll and transferring to invoice approval and administrative services, purchasing, computer center and a host of other challenging jobs with the human resources organization. Elgien and her husband Alan retired from Alcan for several years now, plans on enjoying her garden and the couples Lakelse Lake home away from home. Josey presented Elgien with a pair of garden figurines.



### Richard Legault

Senior cell operator **Richard Legault** was the guest of honour at the line 2 conference room on June 1 when he retired after 28 years and 3 months of Alcan service. Cake, drinks and other refreshments were shared by an appreciative crowd of friends and co-workers who reminisced about Richard's time at Alcan and his non-work pursuits, such as bicycling around New Zealand in the 1980s. He intends to remain in Kitimat.



### Ron Perrier

The shell and anode repair crew gathered in the building 226 lunchroom on June 2 to mark the retirement of supervisor **Ron Perrier**. With Alcan for over 30 years, he was a welder for two decades. During his retirement function, Ron was toasted, praised and sometimes heckled by Gerd Kraft, Mike Whelan, Joe Dacosta, Kevin Finn, John Brady, Tony Costa and others (and when it came to the heckling, Ron gave as good as he got). On a more serious note, addressing the crowd alongside his wife, Ron concluded: "It's a happy day for us, yet it's a sad day because I'm not going to see your faces anymore." He invited his colleagues to visit and keep in touch; though he plans to travel, Ron and his wife plan to continue residing in Terrace.



### Colin Turbide

The line 4b conference room was a lively place on May 19 when co-workers assembled to honour **Colin Turbide**, retiring from Alcan service after 28 years. Most recently active as equipment operator in lines 3 to 5, Colin had worked in several areas of the plant, including stores and mobile equipment, and was a potroom supervisor for three years.



### Noel Walker

Friends, family and co-workers crowded into the main gate's lunchroom on June 9 to celebrate the retirement of 28-year Alcan veteran **Noel Walker**, who worked with plant protection in recent years and served a long stretch on line 7A before that. While his wife Roberta and beaming daughter Marsha looked on, Noel recalled how he came to Kitimat thinking he'd stay a few years, make lots of money and get out, but having a family changed those plans. Kitimat was a great place to raise kids, he realized, and an all-around beautiful place to live. Though he is sad to be leaving Alcan — "We weren't just co-workers, we became friends." — Noel is looking forward to retirement and the "new adventures" that await him.

# Alcan welcomes new intern

**Brent Robinson has joined Alcan's human resources staff.**

**H**ired for a six-month contract, Brent Robinson is a human resources intern at Kitimat Works, where he is helping formulate workforce projections up to December 2007. He will also be participating in various Continuous Improvement projects.

Though he was born and raised in Vancouver, Brent has come to regard Kitimat as his true home. His mother grew up in the local First Nations community, and Brent often visited Kitimat with his family over the years. He eventually became so enamored of Kitimat that he moved here, even though he had no firm job prospects at the time. "It's an intuitive, spiritual thing," he recalled. "I came home on a leap of faith, more or less."

Brent ultimately found employment with the Kitamaat

Village Council, working in Housing for 12 years and then in Economic Development since 1994. He took the Alcan internship (a product of the ongoing relationship between Alcan and KVC) to pick up new skills and continue his own professional development. He already has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, and says that working with Alcan has given him a fuller understanding of what he was taught during his studies.

"I'm fascinated by the strategic element of Alcan," he explained, "how people in a company this big have to make decisions factoring in not only Kitimat Works but also other Alcan facilities at the same time." Regardless, he remains interested in First Nations issues: "My heart is still with the Haisla people and I am following all the exciting developments there as they unfold."



**Brent Robinson**

While he was a little overwhelmed by the sheer size of Kitimat Works at first, Brent has quickly come to feel at home. "I've been really impressed by Alcan," he said. "People here have been very friendly, really good to me, and I'm thankful for the warm reception and for all their help."



**5 Years**

**Jean-Francois Corbeil**  
Engineer

**15 Years**

**Robert Sarrazin**  
Dispatcher Security

**20 Years**

**Line Fortin**  
IT Business Analyst

**25 Years**

**Mark Annibal**  
Superintendent Lines 7&8



**Paul Stevenson**  
Anode Operator

**25 Years**

**Olaf Westphal**  
Senior Cell Operator



**Darcey Jones**  
Technician Lines 3 to 5

**30 Years**

**Tony D'Amico**  
Senior Network Technician Analyst

**35 Years**

**Roy Hartmann**  
Casting Industrial Instructor

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**COMMUNITY: Heritage****Memories of  
Kitimat-Kemano online**

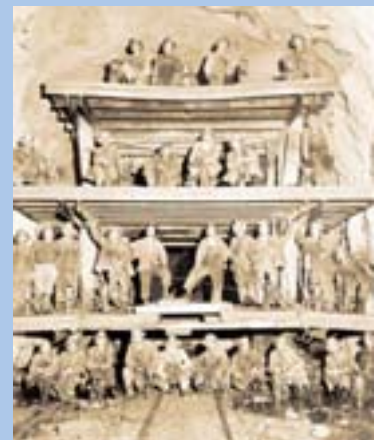
Kitimat's museum has developed an online historical survey of Alcan's Kitimat-Kemano project.

Funded by the Royal British Columbia Museum's Living Landscapes regional outreach program, the Kitimat Centennial Museum has assembled its "Memories of the Kitimat-Kemano Project" online.

In late 2005 and 2006, the museum interviewed roughly 30 individuals who were associated with the Kitimat Project of the 1950s, during which Alcan and its partners worked to create the world's largest aluminum smelter in Northwestern British Columbia. The interviewees being in their late 70s and early 80s, it is vital to preserve their memories while we can, especially since so little oral history of the project exists.

"Memories of the Kitimat-Kemano Project" is essentially an online oral history, telling the Kitimat Project story through quotes, highlighted with photographs and artifacts. The result captures something of the daring, bustling, pioneering spirit of early Kitimat and Alcan's role in putting the community on the map.

The RBCM's Living Landscapes project (<http://livinglandscapes.bc.ca>) and its Kitimat-Kemano content (<http://www.livinglandscapes.bc.ca/northwest/Kitimat/memories.html>) are currently available online.



Kemano construction tunnels.

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