



# Link Line



an update from **WSN** on **YOUR** Mine Rescue program

Issue #21 Summer 2013

## Kidd claims provincial title

### The 2013 Winners

#### OVERALL WINNERS

- 1st – Glencore Xstrata Copper, Kidd Operations
- 2nd – Glencore Xstrata Nickel, Sudbury Operations

#### TECHNICIAN AWARD

- 1st – Denis Bilodeau, Barrick-Hemlo
- 2nd – Jesse Vaillancourt, AuRico Gold Inc.

#### 3rd – Tied

Drew Dalglish,  
Compass Minerals  
Sifto Canada Corp., &

Dave Payne  
Goldcorp Canada,  
Porcupine Gold Mine

#### FIREFIGHTING TEAM AWARD

Wesdome Gold Mine

#### FIRST AID TEAM AWARD

Canadian Gypsum Company

#### SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AWARD

Vale, West Mines



### Glencore Xstrata Copper strikes gold

**M**ine rescuers from Glencore Xstrata Copper, Kidd Operations, shook off a cool reception from judges to win the 63rd annual Ontario Mine Rescue Competition in Windsor in June.

The team consists of Captain Jason Leger, Marc Villars, Stewart Labine, Guy Champagne, Ted Hanley, Danny Morin, and Briefing Officer Shawn Rideout.

Denis Bilodeau, of Barrick Gold's Hemlo Operations improved on last year's second place to win the Technician Award. While last year's third place winner, AuRico Gold Inc.'s Jesse Vaillancourt moved up to claim second. Dave Payne, from Goldcorp Canada's Porcupine Gold Mine, and Drew Dalglish, from Compass Minerals' Sifto Canada Corp. tied for third.

Team awards were spread around as Glencore Xstrata Nickel, Sudbury Operations earned runner-up honours, Wesdome Gold Mine, in their first appearance in a provincial competition won the Firefighting Award. Canadian Gypsum Co. won the First Aid Award, and Vale, West Mines the Special Equipment Award.

Instead of the standard warm hello, judges gave all the teams a distant greeting, few instructions, and no answers to their questions at the start of the competition. Then in short order, two BG4s failed the field test, and technicians were quickly drawn in to repair the units so that the team could move into the scenario part of the competition.

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### We need you!

If you have comments about the newsletter, or suggestions for future articles, please contact Ken Sitter at WSN, (705) 474-7233 ext. 234, or [kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca)



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# 2013 Award Winners



**Glencore Xstrata Copper, Kidd Operations**  
**First Overall**



**Glencore Xstrata Nickel, Sudbury Operations**  
**Second Overall**



**Denis Bilodeau**  
**Barrick-Hemlo**  
**Tech. Award - 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Jesse Vaillancourt**  
**AuRico Gold Inc.**  
**Tech. Award - 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**Dave Payne**  
**Porcupine Gold Mine**  
**Tech. Award - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tied**



**Drew Dalglish**  
**Compass Minerals**  
**Tech. Award - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tied**



**Wesdome Gold**  
**Firefighting Award**



**Canadian Gypsum Company**  
**First Aid Award**

Platinum Sponsor



**Vale, West Mines**  
**Special Equipment Award**

Silver Sponsors





# Competition Gallery







*During this year's competition mine rescue teams had a non-competitive lesson in special rescue equipment.*

## Teams tempted to change priority

**Continued from page 1**

Charlie Burton, Supervisor of Mine Rescue, and one of the authors of the competition explained the opening was designed to better reflect the reality of a callout – no one is greeted by friendly judges, the mine rescue officer is not present to give explanations, and equipment may not function properly requiring a technician to make immediate repairs.

During the scenario teams had to

extinguish a conveyor fire and a mobile equipment fire, crawl the length of a conveyorway, and restore ventilation to the affected area of the mine by building a bulkhead and turning on a fan.

After extinguishing the fires and crawling under the conveyor, teams were tempted to divert their attention from restoring ventilation. The teams passed a refuge station sheltering two miners, one suffering burns, running low of compressed oxygen. Assisting them first, however, meant an additional return to surface, including

crawling up and down the conveyorway again.

Teams encountered one more challenge to overcome on their final crawl under the conveyor to the surface. A hose on one member's BG4 was irreparably damaged, making it necessary to replace his breathing apparatus in a contaminated atmosphere.

After the scenario Code 4 Fire and Rescue, a Hagersville-based rescue supply sales, service and training company, gave teams a relaxed, non-competitive lesson in auto extrication using battery powered spreaders and cutters. A competitive exercise in auto extrication followed the lesson.

Competing mine rescue teams represented Canadian Gypsum Co., Hagersville Mine (Southern District); Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine (Red Lake District); Wesdome Gold Mine (Thunder Bay-Algoma District); Glencore Xstrata Copper, Kidd Operations (Timmins District), Kirkland Lake Gold (Kirkland Lake District); Glencore Xstrata Nickel (Onaping District); and Vale, West Mines (Sudbury District).

This year's competition was co-hosted by the Canadian Salt Company Ltd., Sifto Canada and CGC Inc. The event was sponsored by Drager Safety, Technica Mining, Acklands Grainger, Code 4 Fire and Rescue, Canadian Safety Equipment, Dynamic Safety International, and A & L Auto Recyclers.





# 130 years of service and counting

## Four recognized for volunteer careers in mine rescue

**Gilbert Wahl** (40 years) began his mining career at Algoma Ore Division in Wawa in 1971, where he was introduced to mine rescue. After watching the 1972 Mine Rescue Competition, Wahl was hooked and took his Mine Rescue Basic and Standard Training in 1973. He has been in Ontario Mine Rescue ever since.

Wahl participated in his first competition in 1974, and competed annually for years. He was thrilled to be on the winning district team several times and on provincial winning teams in 1975 and 1978. Wahl left Algoma Ore to work in other area mines but remained active in mine rescue. "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being on many different teams and also assisting teams at other mines."

Wahl now works at Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd., Eagle River Mine, where he has been employed for more than 17 years, as shift supervisor, general foreman, mine captain, and currently Director of Safety and Security.

With his years of competition experience, Wahl enjoys training Wesdome's mine rescue team and coordinating mine rescue requirements for the mine. He regularly serves as a judge as the provincial competition, and as a representative for Thunder Bay/Algoma District on the mine rescue Technical Advisory Committee.

"I thoroughly enjoy this committee and I think it is a major factor in the future of mine rescue in Ontario," says Wahl. "I am proud to be a member of such a distinguished organization, mine rescue has always been, and always will be, my passion."

**Jim Davis** (30 years) was born into Ontario Mine Rescue. His father Don helped fight the McIntyre Fire in 1965, and won two district championships. "I always looked up to him and wanted to help others during emergencies just like he did." So Davis joined Ontario Mine Rescue in 1983.

Davis competed from 1984 to 1991, and again in 1996, winning Timmins District Rookie of the Year honours, two district championships as vice-captain and four as captain. He was the first winner of the Provincial Technician Award in 1986.

Davis stepped away from competing because "in my last district competition as captain they hit me over the head when I came through a culvert, so I took the hint and stopped competing on the floor." From 2007 to 2012, Davis coached the Kidd mine rescue team to three district championships.

In 2012, following his retirement from Kidd after 37 years, Davis worked in Brazil, helping to set up a mine rescue program. And this year, he coached the Dumas Mining Contracting mine rescue team, the first-ever contractor team in competition.

Married for more than 35 years, Davis and his wife Cathy have two children and two grandchildren. They named their youngest Don, after Jim's father and "because of my everlasting love for mine rescue I gave my first-born child Jennifer back to the program - she is now the wife to the captain of Kidd Creek Mine Rescue Team."



**Doug Osborne** (30 years) started at The Canadian Salt Company Ltd. - Ojibway Mine in 1976, and joined the mine rescue team in 1982, receiving his Basic and Standard certificates. From 1984 until 2012, Osborne participated in both provincial and district mine rescue competitions, as a competitor in 1984, a briefing officer from 1985 to 1996, and then in various volunteer capacities. During his competition years, Canadian Salt won numerous district competitions and placed second in 1985 at the provincial competition.

During his career at Canadian Salt, Osborne served as briefing officer or captain of mine rescue teams during active underground fires. He also assisted other mines during emergency situations by providing consultation, mine rescue personnel and/or equipment to support them. Osborne served on Ontario Mine Rescue's Technical Advisory Committee from 2002 to 2012.

At Canadian Salt, Osborne was promoted to Safety Co-ordinator in 1987 and to Manager of Safety in 2008, playing an active role in the growth, experience and training of the operation's mine rescue program until his retirement this January. Osborne now enjoys retirement with his wife Melissa who together have four children, Nicki, the late Derek (2009), Jason and Ryley.

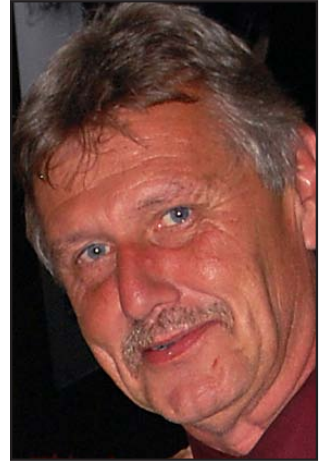
His experience at Canadian Salt and mine rescue has given Osborne "amazing memories". "So many amazing people including mine rescue officers, vendors, competitors, senior mine rescue officers and the list goes on and on."

**Jim Nault** (30 years) started his mining career at Kidd Creek Mine in 1973, but did not join Ontario Mine Rescue as a volunteer until completing his Basic and Standard training in 1983. Nault has been a fixture in mine rescue since. He completed Advanced training in 1985, Supervisory in 1990, Management in 1995, and Technician in 1992. Nault won three consecutive district competitions 2005-07 as technician, and was edged out twice by two points in the following provincial competitions.

He has volunteered at district and provincial competitions for 25 years, and served as backup to the Timmins District Mine Rescue Officers for the past 20 years. Nault's dedication to mine rescue earned him several awards, including the Gabe Laroche Timmins Mine Rescue Award.

Equally committed to his community, Nault is a 10-year member of the South Porcupine Volunteer Fire Department, and a 30+ year member of the Lions Club, receiving a number of awards for his work. Nault, who turns 60 this summer, plans to retire in August from Kidd, and spend time with his wife, seven children and nine grandchildren.

"I have enjoyed working in the mining industry for the past 40 years and have made many good friends," says Nault, who is thankful to have worked with the Timmins Mine Rescue Officers and volunteers. "To all the Mine Rescue Men in the Porcupine/Kirkland Lake camps it was a pleasure to work with and compete against some of you."





# Still time to register for IMRB 2013 conference

Time is running out to register for IMRB 2013, the sixth biennial conference of the International Mines Rescue Body (IMRB), in Niagara Falls, October 5 to 10.

And an optional all-inclusive field trip following the formal conference to Sudbury, October 10 to 13, is proving to be just as popular with delegates.

More than 150 people have registered, representing mine rescue organizations across Canada, and more than a dozen other countries including Russia, Germany, the United States, Australia, Nigeria, South Africa, and China.

Almost 36 proposals for presentations have been submitted, covering topics such as effective rescue training, improved and emerging rescue technologies, crisis management, emergency preparedness and response planning, and more.

Registrations are still being accepted. The IMRB 2013 website – [www.IMRB2013.ca](http://www.IMRB2013.ca) – allows participants to

register online or download a registration form to fax or mail.

The conference is hosted by the Canadian mining industry, Canada's Chief Inspectors of Mines and Canadian mine rescue organizations to share knowledge and expertise in mine emergency response.



The optional field trip to Sudbury, which will feature various mine tours, a trade show, and various attractions and events, is hosted by major mining companies – Vale, Glencore Xstrata Nickel and KGHM; the City of Sudbury and Workplace Safety North.

Come join us – share the vision and share the knowledge as IMRB 2013 reaches towards our common purpose, promoting and improving mine rescue at an international level through global cooperation.

## Mine rescue history in quilt

Years of mine rescue history is sewn into a "Mine Rescue" quilt designed and made by Ann Bogaart, the sister of former Ministry of Labour inspector and long-time mine rescue volunteer John Vergunst.

More than 100 mine rescue logos from Ontario Mine Rescue competitions, mining companies and operations are sewn into the quilt, to be the prize in a fundraiser – Miners for Cancer and on display at this year's provincial mine rescue competition.

The logos were collected and trimmed from the many mine rescue caps Vergunst collected during his 30 years of support for mine rescue.

Early this year Vergunst and his wife Barb had agreed that each would dispose of some of their personal treasures. After starting John decided to keep the crests, so he cut them off the caps and placed them in a smaller box.

When Bogaart saw the crests, she suggest they be made into a quilt and volunteered her services. Assisted by two friends, she completed the quilt a few days before



the competition.

Information on the fundraising effort, tickets and the draw will be posted on the Ontario Mine Rescue website this summer.

### Who's where at WSN Mine Rescue

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