



Link Line



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

Issue #22 Winter 2013



Smile! Delegates gather near the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls after concluding the formal proceedings of IMRB 2013.

Standing out at IMRB 2013

International conference puts focus on mine rescue

Ontario Mine Rescue was front and centre at IMRB 2013, the sixth biennial conference of the International Mines Rescue Body hosted by the Canadian mining industry and Canadian mine rescue organizations held in Niagara Falls in early October.

Twenty nations were represented among the almost 240 delegates and guests who gathered to share vision and knowledge on mine rescue. It was the largest number of countries ever represented at an IMRB gathering, says Alex Gryska, Ontario Mine Rescue director and conference co-chair.

Workplace Safety North president and

chief executive officer Candys Ballanger-Michaud welcomed the delegates to Niagara Falls, as did Ontario Minister of Labour Yasir Naqvi, Peter Bengts representing Canada's Chief Inspectors of Mines and Canadian mine rescue organizations, and Draeger Safety chief executive officer Stefan Draeger.

Of the 35 presentations, which began with 'Establishing Command and Control' and ended with 'Is Your Mine Prepared for a Wildfire?', seven were presented by delegates with Ontario Mine Rescue ties. See story Page 3.

Approximately a third of the presenters

were Canadian with others representing the United States, New Zealand, China, Russia, South Africa, Austria, Ireland, the Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Australia, Romania, Poland, and Germany.

Topics included the use of refuge stations, new mine rescue technologies, recent research, hazards encountered by mine rescuers, specific mine rescue emergency responses, mine rescue training, and best practices.

All presentations are available for download at www.minerescue.org/presentations.htm.

See "SUDBURY" Page 2

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



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Sudbury trip concludes IMRB Canada

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Pre-conference events included an IMRB executive committee meeting at which Kazakhstan was accepted as the 22nd full member of the organization. The celebration by a happy Kazakh delegation nearly turned into a repeat of the disappointment of IMRB 2011.

This year Kazakh delegates did not receive visas for Canada until they were at the airport leaving for Canada. In 2011 an earthquake prevented them from attending the conference in Beijing, China.

In other business, the IMRB executive confirmed 2015 IMRB will be in Hanover, Germany (www.imrb2015.de), Sept. 6 to 10, and accepted a proposal from Russia to host the 2017 conference.

Preparation for next year's International Mines Rescue Competition in Poland (www.imrc2014.pl) is well underway, though no national stepped forward to host a 2016 competition. Russia will host the 2018 competition.

While international delegates met for a business session, Canadian mine rescuers from seven jurisdictions met for an informal discussion about mine rescue in this country, including the possibility for greater provincial cooperation and standardization of qualifications.

Informal social and networking events include a winery tour and a wrap up dinner hosted by Draeger with a dramatic view of the Horseshoe Falls.

Formal proceedings were followed by a field trip to Sudbury attended by almost half the delegates. The trip included activities sponsored by KGHM, Glencore, and Vale, as well as Workplace Safety North and the City of Sudbury.

All three mining companies offered tours of their facilities – KGHM's Craig Mine, Glencore's Sudbury INO, and Vale's Creighton Mine – as well as hosted social events. The four-hour drive to the Nickel City was punctuated with a KGHM-hosted boat cruise at Port Severn to see the autumn colours, and – perhaps the most Canadian of events – road reconstruction.

Delegates were welcomed to Sudbury at KGHM's Canada Night, while Glencore hosted Glencore on the Rocks – an evening at Dynamic Earth, and Vale and Technica Mining bid them farewell at a Grand Feast with a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dinner, including entertainment by First Nations dancers, a fiddle and step dance troupe, as well as a contemporary band.



The Canadian wilderness impressed IMRB delegates during a cruise on the Severn River hosted by KGHM at the start of the Sudbury field trip.



During their visit to Sudbury, IMRB delegates toured KGHM, Glencore and Vale mines.



First Nations dancers performed during Vale's Grand Feast, which included a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dinner.



IMRB delegates posed with Sudbury INO mine rescuers outside Dynamic Earth at Glencore on the Rocks during their visit to Sudbury.

What Ontario mine rescuers told IMRB

Goldcorp Summit, communications among topics

Months before IMRB 2013, mine rescuers from Goldcorp Inc. mines in seven countries across the Americas gathered for a mini-international summit of their own, Marcus Uchtenhagan told the larger international conference in Niagara Falls.

The safety and training superintendent at Goldcorp, a former mine rescuer and mine rescue officer, and current member of Ontario Mine Rescue's Technical Advisory Committee, was one of seven delegates with ties to OMR to make presentations to the International Mines Rescue Body conference in October.

The international exercise – Goldcorp Mine Rescue Summit 2013 – held in Reno, Nevada during the summer created a positive learning and growth opportunity for mine rescuers and control group members from all of the participating mines, Uchtenhagan said.

The week-long Goldcorp summit, which included Ontario mine rescuers from Red Lake Gold Mines, Musselwhite Mine and Porcupine Gold Mines, allowed for a high level of interaction, Uchtenhagan said.

Simulated “real life scenarios” were created for both surface and underground operations, but instead of competing teams from individual mines, blended teams were created with rescuers from all the mines, he said.

“The concept was of a ‘Summit’ and not a competition,” said Uchtenhagan, explaining the resulting teams were a blend of languages (English, French, and Spanish), cultures, experience and expertise requiring the mine rescuers to find a way to work together effectively.

Uchtenhagan gave a second presentation entitled ‘Portable Refuge Chambers vs Permanent Refuge Stations’.

In her presentation, York University professor Dr. Mary Waller underlined the significance of effective communications between mine rescuers. ‘Teams Under Stress’, is a summary of her research the past two years with Ontario Mine Rescue.

Waller told delegates that preliminary results based on data collected during the 2012 provincial competition indicate that excellent performing teams seem to:

- engage in full-team briefing communication more often and more quickly



The Goldcorp Mine Rescue Summit, top and bottom, challenged mine rescuers from its mines not to compete against each other but to overcome language, culture and other challenges to work effectively together in simulated emergencies.



Portable Refuge Chambers vs Permanent Refuge Stations

Objective

To create a safe environment that will sustain our workforce that are trapped underground during an emergency.

Preliminary Results

- Based on data collected at 2012 OMR Provincial Competition
- **Excellent** performing teams seem to:
 - engage in **full-team briefing** communication more often and more quickly
 - **push more information** for implicit coordination
 - exhibit **shorter, less complex** interaction patterns during **protocol application**
 - exhibit **longer, more complex** interaction patterns during **situation assessment**

Portable Refuge Chambers vs Permanent Refuge Stations, and team communications were among the presentations at the International Mines Rescue Body conference in Niagara Falls made by delegates with connections to Ontario Mine Rescue.

- push or volunteer more information for implicit coordination
- exhibit shorter, less complex interactions while completing tasks, and
- exhibit longer, more complex

interactions while assessing situations.

Data collection will continue at district and the provincial competitions in 2014, Waller said.

See “VOLUNTEER” Page 5



Well done! Paramedics smile in appreciation as they watch mine rescue volunteers during a simulated exercise.

'A completely different environment'

▶ "It's a whole other world," said Gary McAuley, after watching a mine rescue team under oxygen provide first aid and rescue three injured miners in an emergency simulation.

McAuley, a paramedic with the Toronto Emergency Medical Services, was one of more than a dozen delegates to the Ontario Paramedic Association's Paramedicine 2013 Conference in Sudbury to watch the simulation.

"The whole working environment here is so much different," said McAuley, who admitted to never having worked in conditions similar to those simulated in the exercise in the darkened Onaping Curling Club for the Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations' mine rescue team preparing for the Onaping district competition.

"It's completely different from the environment in which I work. It's

Paramedics experience world of mine rescue

underground. It's dark, takes a long time to get there, carrying equipment . . ." said the paramedic, noting that he has worked in confined spaces, but wearing a breathing apparatus would have complicated any task making it more difficult to do the job.

Conference organizer Gino St-Jean, a training officer with the Greater Sudbury Emergency Services, said the pre-conference event – Experience a True Mining Rescue – was intended to create awareness and educate conference delegates about what mine rescuers do.

"It another aspect of paramedicine," said St-Jean, who worked for Falconbridge for seven years prior to joining the city service as a part-time paramedic in 2000.

St-Jean worked his way to become an advanced care paramedic, and the last three years training officer.

Sudbury paramedics do emergency simulations for training, he said. "Maybe not this intense but we do simulations."

Holding the paramedic conference in Sudbury created an opportunity to expose delegates to another aspect of paramedicine, St-Jean said.

"A lot of them, especially those from southern Ontario, have never seen a mine," he said. "This is an exchange of information between mine rescue and paramedics."

Though mine rescuers are not trained in medical aid to the level of paramedics, as first responders there is "a respect for what they do. They are volunteers . . . they put their lives on the line," St-Jean said.



Under the watchful eyes of paramedics, two mine rescuers lift a 'injured' worker into a stretcher during an emergency simulation.



Tchau (Goodbye)

Fourth-year Civil Engineering students from Laurentian University Gustavo Souza, left, and Jardel Norbrega dos Santos, exchange students from Brazil, spent the summer working with Ontario Mine Rescue. The students, who worked out of the Sudbury office, completed Introductory Mine Rescue Training and worked on several projects including the translation of the Handbook of Training in Mine Rescue into Spanish and Portuguese. They have now returned to Brazil.

Volunteer tells about volunteering

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Twenty-five year OMR volunteer Bryan Wilson explained 'What it means to be a Mine Rescue Volunteer' in his presentation.

Wilson, who works at Glencore's Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operation, included a video of fellow Glencore mine rescuers explaining what they do and why they became volunteers.

Brent Woods, area manager with Dumas Contracting Ltd., presented 'Bringing Mine Rescue to Contracting' on behalf of Dumas general manager Dave Bernier.

The presentation reviewed how the company elevated its contribution to the mining industry, its clients and its employees by launching a mine rescue program.

Denis Beaudoin, corporate director of health and safety for Cementation Canada Inc., made a presentation on a 'Mining Contractor's Perspective on Mine Rescue/Emergency Preparedness', and Keith Allen, a production supervisor at Glencore's Sudbury INO and a OMR volunteer, spoke on 'Post Blast Checks with the Draeger Micro ChargeAIR'.



All IMRB presentations, including 'What it Means to be a Volunteer Mine Rescuer' and 'Bringing Mine Rescue to Contracting', are available for download at www.minerescue.org/presentations.htm.



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