



Link Line



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

Issue #27 Summer 2015

Obstacles no barrier for Vale West

2015 Winners

Overall Winners

1st – Vale Canada Ltd., West Mines

2nd – AuRico Gold,
Young-Davidson Mine

Technician Award

1st – Dan Rulli,
CGC Inc., Hagersville Mine

2nd – Jason Leclair,
Barrick-Hemlo

3rd – Remi Toupin,
Primero Mining, Black Fox Mine

Firefighting Team Award

AuRico Gold,
Young-Davidson Mine

First Aid Team Award

Barrick-Hemlo

Special Equipment Award

Dumas Contracting Ltd.



Vale West Mines rescue team poses following first day action at the 2015 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition at Fort Williams Gardens in Thunder Bay.

Vale claims provincial title; CGC's Rulli top technician

▶ Vale West Mines volunteers overcame a series of obstacles to come out on top in the 66th annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition – the first to have all teams compete on both days – in Thunder Bay in June.

The Vale West team consisted of: Captain Kevin Duff, Briefing Officer Paul Aho, Jeff Farquson, Jim Niesing, Mario Ceccon, Nick Jones, Darren Toner, and Gord Sullivan. The team won the Sudbury District competition in May.

Dan Rulli, mine rescue technician for CGC's Hagersville Mine, who placed third

last year moved up to win the award for top technician. Rulli won the Southern District competition in May. Jason Leclair, of Barrick-Hemlo finished second, and Remi Toupin of Primero Mining, placed third.

In the underground scenario completed by all teams on the first day, mine rescuers arrived at the “mine site” – Fort William Gardens – to learn a fire had been reported in the crusher station, five men were unaccounted for in the #2 shaft area, the #2 shaft skiptender was trapped and suspected of suffering a broken hand.

At a fresh air base on 2300 Level, the

team was assigned to go under oxygen to travel through smoke to find a missing and injured worker in the 2170 drift. They had to navigate a smoke tunnel, and work through a series of barriers using tools – a reciprocating saw, boltcutter and edraulic cutter – left behind by a construction detail.

Teams dismantled a cinderblock wall; cut through assorted sized pipes to allow them to squeeze past a slide of muck; and crawled through a culvert blocked by rebar and rockbolts.

See “FIRST” Page 8

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



P.O. Box 2050, Stn. Main
690 McKeown Ave.

North Bay, ON P1B 9P1

PH: (705) 474-7233

FAX: (705) 472-5800

www.workplacesafetynorth.ca

2015 AWARD WINNERS



First Overall
Vale West Mines



Second Overall
AuRico Gold, Young-Davidson Mine



Technician Award
1st – Dan Rulli

CGC Inc., Hagersville



Technician Award
2nd – Jason Leclair

Barrick Hemlo



Technician Award
3rd – Remi Toupin

Primero Mining



Firefighting Award
AuRico Gold, Young-Davidson Mine



First Aid Award
Barrick Hemlo

Platinum Sponsors



Technica Mining



Special Equipment Award
Dumas Contracting Ltd.

Competition Gallery



For the full 2015 Provincial Competition Album, visit our website – www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue



1979 – ‘THE BIG DAY’ returns. Doug Cooper of TexasGulf Kidd Creek Mine, 1979 provincial champions, cares for a casualty.



1980 – TRAILBREAKER. Linda Bell helps her Umex Thierry Mine team win the 1980 provincial competition.



2004 – UNDERGROUND. Wesdome Eagle River Gold Mine’s team is among the first to compete underground at Fecunis.

A history of Provincial Mine Rescue Competitions From Timmins to Thunder Bay

Sometime in the late 1940s, two teams from Inco’s Frood Mine and one from Inco’s Creighton Mine performed mine rescue tasks in an open field in Sudbury with fences for drift walls, under the watchful eye of then Senior Mine Rescue Officer Percy Smith.

Which team won is now unknown, but the event was successful enough that in 1950 Smith started the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, at first limited to mines in the Porcupine camp.



George MacPhail

Within four years, four districts entered teams, and in 1954 Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. became the first mine from outside the camp to win. By 1961, about 45 teams entered district competitions to select eight provincial finalists.

“Originally,” Smith’s successor George MacPhail said, “the winning teams from the district competitions were brought to a single point for ‘The Big Day.’” Costs were such that ‘The Big Day’ was cancelled,

but to keep the provincial competition operating, a team of judges travelled to each district.

MacPhail recalled “me and eight mine rescue officers or judges, one from each (mine rescue) station” to keep the judging fair, spending weeks on the road visiting the competing mines. The specifics of the competition were known only to the judges.

“We all agreed to keep it secret,” he said. To further keep it confidential, each event was “held indoors with admission restricted.”

The first competitions did not include knowledge tests, but did include a bench test and a task to be completed under oxygen. Ron Eveson, another former Senior Mine Rescue Officer recalled the first under oxygen task he encountered as a volunteer mine rescuer with Hollinger.

“The problem was a one-paragraph statement, given to the

captain on completion of the field tests. The team was to travel through a fire door, take a CO test and return within a limited time.”

The need for secrecy and fairness faced new challenges when Eveson decided in 1979 to end the travelling show and revert back to ‘The Big Day’, having all district-winning teams travel to a single site.

Timmins District hosted the first re-united Provincial Mine Rescue Competition with all the teams facing the same problem in the same location. Again judges kept the competition details secret, and mine rescue teams, once they had worked through the problem, were asked to do likewise.

The next year in Thunder Bay, Linda Bell became the first woman to compete at a provincial competition as a member of the championship-winning Umex Thierry Mine.

For the first, and to date, only time, the provincial competition ended in a tie in 1998, as mine rescuers from Barrick Gold’s Holt McDermott Mine and Falconbridge’s Onaping Craig Mines had to share bragging rights.

The provincial competition moved underground for the first time in 2004 at NORCAT’s Fecunis Mine, near Onaping, adding a higher level of realism. The competition has since been held underground on five occasions.

Today Ontario Mine Rescue holds eight competitions annually, seven district and one provincial, to ensure that mine rescuers across the province are trained to the same high standards, as well as to address specific learning objectives.

For the past 65 years, Ontario Mine Rescue competitions have earned a reputation for challenging learning objectives, innovation, and consistency and fairness in judging.



Ron Eveson

66 Years of Champions

- 
- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1950 | - Pamour Porcupine Gold Mines | 1985 | - Dickenson Mines Ltd. |
| 1951 | - Hallnor Mines Ltd. | 1986 | - Lac Minerals Ltd.
- Macassa Division |
| 1952 | - Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines Ltd. | 1987 | - Denison Mines Ltd. |
| 1953 | - Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. | 1988 | - Denison Mines Ltd. |
| 1954 | - MacLeod Cockshutt Gold Mines Ltd. | 1989 | - American Barrick Resources
- Holt McDermott Mine |
| 1955 | - Kerr Addison Gold Mines Ltd. | 1990 | - Sifto Canada
- Goderich Mine |
| 1956 | - Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd.
- East Mine | 1991 | - Placer Dome Inc.
- Campbell Mine |
| 1957 | - Steep Rock Iron Mines Ltd. | 1992 | - Placer Dome Inc.
- Dome Mine |
| 1958 | - Steep Rock Iron Mines Ltd. | 1993 | - Inco Ltd.
- Frood Stobie Complex |
| 1959 | - Algom Uranium Mines Ltd.
- Quirke Mine | 1994 | - Inco Ltd.
- Levack Complex |
| 1960 | - Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd.
- Falconbridge Mine | 1995 | - Inco Ltd.
- Frood Stobie Complex |
| 1961 | - Rio Algom Mines Ltd. | 1996 | - Falconbridge
- Onaping Craig Mine |
| 1962 | - Willroy Mines Ltd. | 1997 | - Falconbridge
- Fraser/Strathcona Complex |
| 1963 | - Algoma Ore Properties
- MacLeod Mine | 1998 | - Barrick Gold
- Holt McDermott Mine
- Falconbridge
- Onaping Craig Mine |
| 1964 | - Cochenour Williams Gold Mines Ltd. | 1999 | - Inco Ltd.
- West Complex |
| 1965 | - Denison Mines Ltd. | 2000 | - Battle Mountain Gold
- Holloway Mine |
| 1966 | - MacLeod Cockshutt Gold Mines Ltd. | 2001 | - Placer Dome Inc.
- Campbell Mine |
| 1967 | - Denison Mines Ltd. | 2002 | - Falconbridge
- Craig/Lockerby Mine |
| 1968 | - Algoma Ore Division
- Rio MacLeod Mine | 2003 | - Newmount Canada Ltd.
- Golden Giant Mine |
| 1969 | - Rio Algom Mines Ltd.
- Quirke Division | 2004 | - Inco Ltd., East Mines |
| 1970 | - International Nickel Co.
- Garson Mine | 2005 | - Inco Ltd., West Mines |
| 1971 | - International Nickel Co.
- Frood Stobie | 2006 | - Goldcorp Canada
- Porcupine Joint Venture |
| 1972 | - Rio Algom Mines Ltd.
- Quirke Division | 2007 | - CVRD Inco, East Mines |
| 1973 | - Rio Algom Mines Ltd.
- Quirke Division | 2008 | - Xstrata Nickel, Fraser/TL Mine |
| 1974 | - Noranda Mines Ltd.
- Geco Division | 2009 | - Vale Inco, East Mines |
| 1975 | - Algoma Ore Division
- MacLeod Mine | 2010 | - Goldcorp Canada,
Porcupine Gold Mines |
| 1976 | - Denison Mines Ltd. | 2011 | - Vale West Mines |
| 1977 | - Denison Mines Ltd. | 2012 | - Barrick-Hemlo |
| 1978 | - Algoma Ore Division
- MacLeod Mine | 2013 | - Glencore Xstrata Copper,
Kidd Operations |
| 1979 | - Texasgulf Canada Ltd.
- #2 Mine | 2014 | - Vale East Mines |
| 1980 | - Umex Thierry Mine | 2015 | - Vale West Mines |
| 1981 | - Umex Thierry Mine | | |
| 1982 | - Madawaska Mines Ltd. | | |
| 1983 | - Inco Ltd. | | |
| 1984 | - Inco Ltd.
- Creighton Complex | | |



Saying farewell to our friends

Alex Gryska, General Manager – Alex was trained in mine rescue at Macassa Mine in Kirkland Lake in 1975. He joined the Ontario Ministry of Labour as a mining inspector in 1978. His affection for and connection with Ontario Mine Rescue continued for the next 24 years as he volunteered as a judge and photographer at district and provincial competitions.



Alex Gryska

Alex joined Ontario Mine Rescue as general manager in 2001, shortly after responsibility for OMR passed from the Ministry to the Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association.

He has represented OMR internationally at the International Mines Rescue Body for more than 10 years, acted as co-host to IMRB 2013 conference, and is co-ordinating next year's International Mines Rescue Competition in Sudbury.

Alex and his wife have a son, and plan to spend much of their time on Lake Nipissing.

Charlie Burton, Supervisor of Mine Rescue – Charlie joined Ontario Mine Rescue as a volunteer in 1975 at Inco's Creighton Mine. He competed in district and provincial competitions, and was captain of Inco's provincial winning teams in 1983 and



Charlie Burton

1984, and a coach of the Ontario team that won the 1986 national competition. At the end of 1984, Charlie was hired as the Kirkland Lake District mine rescue officer. He moved to Sudbury in 1989 to become Onaping District MRO, and was appointed supervisor of mine rescue in 2003.

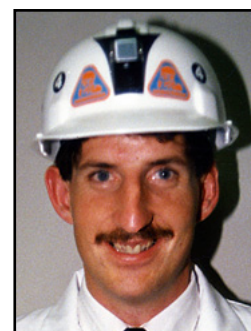
During his time with mine rescue, Charlie was instrumental in implementing many improvements to the response capability of OMR's mine rescue volunteers, including: the acquisition of the BG4 as primary breathing apparatus; gas detection; the addition of the Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) Rapid Response Units; and most recently, the purchase of Hurst eDraulic extrication equipment. Many procedural changes have also been made during his tenure, both to emergency operations and to the conducting of district and provincial competitions.

Charlie and his wife have three children and five grandchildren. They plan to continue spending summers in Vermilion River, and travel during the winter.

John Hagan, Mine Rescue Officer/Consultant – John became a mine rescue volunteer in 1979 while working at Placer Dome's Campbell Mine in Red Lake. He competed in district and provincial competitions, and was a member of the Ontario team that won the 1986 national competition.

John became the Red Lake District mine rescue officer in 1987. He moved to Onaping District in 1994 to be the provincial technician, and became that district's MRO in 2003.

A former volunteer firefighter, and member and first aid instructor for the Canadian Ski Patrol, John and his wife have three adult daughters, and three grandchildren.



John Hagan

Tim Taylor, Mine Rescue Officer/Consultant – Tim was working at Denison's Quirke Mine in Elliot Lake when he became a mine rescue volunteer in 1980. He competed in district competitions and joined the Ontario Ministry of Labour in 1988 as an industrial hygiene inspector.

Tim, however, quickly made the switch to Ontario Mine Rescue only days after joining the ministry, becoming Southern District's first and only mine rescue officer. A longtime volunteer firefighter with Essex County, Tim and his wife have a grown daughter.



Tim Taylor

Bruce Hall, Mine Rescue Officer/Consultant – Bruce started his mining career in 1978 at Lac Minerals' Macassa Mine in Kirkland Lake. A year later, he joined Ontario Mine Rescue as a volunteer and competed in district and provincial competitions. Bruce was vice-captain of the 1986 provincial champion team from Macassa. He also served as a volunteer firefighter in Kirkland Lake.

Bruce started to get paid for his mine rescue work in 1989. For his entire career as a mine rescue officer, Bruce has been based in Sudbury District and trained volunteers at Inco, now Vale. Bruce and his wife, who have a grown son and daughter, plan to spend summers on Manitoulin Island, and winters in the Phoenix area.



Bruce Hall



Candys Ballanger-Michaud, chief executive officer of Workplace Safety North, thanks Ghislain Lebel for his 30 years of volunteer service to Ontario Mine Rescue.



Terry Sprowl, a volunteer with Goldcorp Canada in Timmins, is congratulated for 30 years of service to Ontario Mine Rescue by Alex Gryska, general manager of OMR.

Volunteers recognized for long service

Ghislain Lebel – Ghislain began his mining career in Elliot Lake in the fall of 1980, and soon after joined Ontario Mine Rescue. He competed in district competitions for several years, and in the provincial competition in 1986.

Ghislain received mine rescue training in other jurisdictions during a three-year absence from Ontario. He returned to Ontario in 2003 to work at Xstrata Nickel and rejoin OMR. He moved to FNX Mining, now KGHM International, in 2005, and continues to be an active team member.

Terry Sprowl – After his first mining job at the Dome Mine in 1975, Terry left the industry for several years. He enrolled at the Haileybury School of Mines in 1979, where he took basic and standard courses in mine rescue.

Terry moved to Elliot Lake in 1982, and became active in mine rescue in 1985. When he moved to Timmins in 1987 to work at Dome, now Goldcorp, he continued to volunteer for Ontario Mine Rescue.

Terry has 21 years of competition experience, including 16 as

a technician. He has won five district and two provincial team competitions, and six district and one provincial technician competitions. His ardour for mine rescue and competition continues, as Terry represents Goldcorp and Timmins District as a technician in this year's provincial.

Rick Demers – Rick started his mining career at Pamour Mine in Timmins in 1975. Through encouragement from Jim Davis, Rick became a mine rescue volunteer in 1985 at Texasgulf, and remained a steadfast volunteer at the operation through the tenures of a half-dozen mine rescue officers/consultants, and an almost equal number of ownership shifts.

Though the years Rick continued to learn and flourish in both mining and mine rescue, earning 169 different licences and specializing in 10. Rick continues to be active in mine rescue with Glencore. He attends on-going training, responds to emergency calls and remains involved in the district mine rescue competition. After reaching his 30-year milestone, Rick has no plans on stopping this passion at any time in the near future.

Rideout appointed Chief MRO

Workplace Safety North is pleased to announce Shawn Rideout will join the Ontario Mine Rescue program as Chief Mine Rescue Officer, reporting to the General Manager, Ontario Mine Rescue.

Shawn will work closely with Charlie Burton, current Supervisor of Mine Rescue, and will assume responsibility for oversight of all training and emergency response activities within the province upon Burton's retirement later this year.

Shawn received his Introductory Mine Rescue Training in 2006 while working at Falconbridge Kidd Creek Mine, now Glencore Kidd Operations in Timmins. Since then he has served as a mine rescue volunteer in the Timmins District, and also completed his Technician, Advanced and Management Mine Rescue certifications.

As captain of the Dumas Contracting Ltd. Mine Rescue team in this year's Provincial Competition, Shawn led the

first-ever contractor team to win awards at the provincial level taking top honours in the use of rescue and extrication equipment. Prior to this year Shawn was a member of five Timmins District Mine Rescue Competition winning teams, and one provincial championship winning team.

At Kidd Operations, Shawn held underground supervisory roles before joining Dumas in 2013 to oversee mobile maintenance operations at their Timmins facility.

Shawn will work at the Sudbury Station and can be reached at 705-671-6360 ext. 339 or shawnrideout@workplacesafetynorth.ca.



Shawn Rideout

OMR requires three new MROs

Ontario Mine Rescue, a part of Workplace Safety North, is seeking three new mine rescue officers to fill positions in Onaping and Thunder Bay/Algoma districts, and Northwestern Ontario.

Applicants should have a solid grasp of health and safety principles, advanced Ontario Mine Rescue certification, a sound understanding of the principles of adult education, and the ability to develop and implement training programs.

Qualifications include current first aid and CPR training, a valid driver's licence, and five years of experience in conventional and mechanized mining.

Visit www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/careers for more information.



First aid, firefighting scenarios on second day

Continued from page 1

They weren't finished. The teams extinguished an electrical fire that started when they turned off power to a sump; climbed over a manlift blocking the drift; and then waded through a water-filled sump to treat and rescue the injured worker discovered unconscious on a floating platform.

A final activity in the scenario had teams extend the life of their BG4s, when they found themselves trapped on a powerless cage in a smoke-filled shaft.

During the second day, teams faced separate first aid and firefighting scenarios. Teams had to triage and treat three casualties in a surface vehicle incident – one conscious in a vehicle, and complaining of no feeling in his extremities; a second conscious and suffering a broken femur with severe bleeding; and a third, unconscious with no pulse or respiration. Teams had 30 minutes to prepare the casualties for transport.

In the firefighting scenario, teams had to approach an underground fuel truck fire against ventilation, to rescue an unconscious casualty and extinguish the fire using a compressed air foam system. The scenario was held outside the arena with the use of a special "vehicle" provided by Drager Safety.

The competition wrapped up with a friendly mine rescue skills race. Mixed teams (all captains, all No. 2 man, etc.) had to set up a GripTech Rope Rescue System,

navigate a basket through a tunnel, barrier, and pylons, as well as hit targets with fire extinguishers, and collect a casualty.

AuRico Gold in their first appearance in the provincial earned runner-up honours, as well as the Firefighting Team Award. Dumas Contracting Ltd., the first contractor team to reach the provincials, won the Special Equipment Award. While Barrick-Hemlo won the First Aid Team Award.

Competing mine rescue teams included Compass Mineral, Goderich Mine (Southern District); Goldcorp Canada, Red Lake Gold Mine (Red Lake District); Barrick-Hemlo (Thunder Bay/Algoma District); Dumas Contracting Ltd. (Timmins District); AuRico Gold, Young-Davidson Mine (Kirkland Lake District); and Glencore Sudbury INO, (Onaping District).

This year's competition was co-hosted by: Goldcorp Canada Red Lake Mines and Musselwhite Mine, and Rubicon Minerals – Phoenix Gold Project.

Ontario Mine Rescue would like to acknowledge the support and on-site video services provided by Andre Zagay, Ray Dufour, and Daniel Beauchemin of Zetec.

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Ontario Mine Rescue

Head Office (Sudbury) 705-670-5707

General Manager

Ted Hanley ext. 337
tedhanley@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Mine Rescue Program Supervisor

Charlie Burton ext. 329
charlieburton@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Chief Mine Rescue Officer

Shawn Rideout ext. 339
shawnriderout@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Emergency Services Specialist

Shawn Kirwan ext. 329
shawnkirwan@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Mine Rescue Officer

Walter (Wally) Adler ext. 331
walteradler@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Executive Assistant

Penny Pagan ext. 321
pennypagan@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Mine Rescue Assistant

Becky Barrett ext. 325
beckybarrett@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Mine Rescue Officers

Algoma Station 807-238-1155

Denis Leduc
denisleduc@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Kirkland Lake Station 705-567-4606

Wayne Baker
waynebaker@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Onaping Station 705-670-5707

John Hagan ext. 334
johnhagan@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Red Lake Station 807-735-2331

Grant Saunders
grantsaunders@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Southern Ontario Station 519-652-9809

Tim Taylor
tamtaylor@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Sudbury Station 705-670-5707

Bruce Hall ext. 335
brucehall@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Tim Ebbinghaus ext. 316
timebbinghaus@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Thunder Bay Station 807-344-8211

Duane Crosswell
duanecrosswell@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Timmins Station 705-235-4861

Emanuel (Manny) Cabral
emanualcabral@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Danny Taillefer
dannytaillefer@workplacesafetynorth.ca

North Bay Office 705-474-7233

Writer

Ken Sitter ext. 234
kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca

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760 Notre Dame Ave.
Notre Dame Square
Sudbury, ON P3A 2T4
PH: (705) 671-6360
FAX: (705) 670-5708
www.workplacesafetynorth.ca