



Link Line



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

Issue #31 Winter 2016

“Next Generation” here to stay

Numerous milestones make first year as MRO ‘exciting’

Mike Krell and Dan Rulli, hired as Ontario Mine Rescue Officers in September 2015, are at the front of the “Next Generation” of MROs – and they plan to be there for a while.

“It’s been very exciting,” says Rulli, of his first year as Southern District MRO. “Lots of milestones – first district competition, standing on the other side of the fence at the provincial competition, and then the IMRC (International Mines Rescue Competition) was exciting.”

“I think everything I expected to happen happened – the training, competitions, meeting new people. I knew that had to happen, and it was exciting,” says Rulli, who joined Ontario Mine Rescue as a volunteer a dozen years ago at CGC’s Hagersville Mine.

Also in the Next Generation are Jason Leger, in Timmins District, and Shawn Shail, in Kirkland District, who were hired in January, while three more positions are scheduled to be filled in 2017, as retirements and service growth change

Ontario Mine Rescue.

Krell, MRO for Thunder Bay/Algoma, is no less effusive than Rulli about his first year. His first provincial competition as an MRO “was really eye opening,” and the IMRC was special.

“I really enjoy the job. Getting to do something I like every day is really something,” says Krell, who credits the mine rescue volunteers in Thunder Bay/Algoma with an easy adjustment.

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IMRC2016 – a win for KLG, mine rescue

Competition raises bar for future events

IMRC2016 – Canada was not just a win for Kirkland Lake Gold, the competition was a win for the event and mine rescue everywhere, said organizer Alex Gryska.

“We had a lot of goals,” said Gryska, of the International Mines Rescue Competition organizing committee – national and international participation, competitiveness, realism, standardization, transparency, fairness, viewer-friendliness, learning opportunities, research, and more.

Though the competition fell short of the hoped for 30 teams from 20 nations, “we were very successful in raising the bar for future competitions,” he said, and that has built interest in IMRC2018. “We’ve established a real international mine rescue community.”

“Nations that couldn’t attend because of the poor mining economy are very interested in attending the next competition in Russia.”

See “MEASURES” Page 8



KIRKLAND LAKE GOLD mine rescuers not only won the Underground Emergency Scenario at IMRC2016-Canada, but the overall competition.

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

IMRC Scenarios



Underground Emergency

Competitors are informed that the tires of a scoop are burning underground, and a foam generator is required to extinguish the fire. Nine men are unaccounted for and Team 1 is exploring the area. Acting as Team 2, they must install a barricade at the top of a stope to control ventilation.

While en route, teams discover a haul truck operator unconscious in smoke on the main ramp at Scene 1. They are

given 10 minutes to apply a breathing apparatus and prepare the truck operator for transport to surface. After proceeding to Scene 2, a heavily smoked and heated area, teams are given 20 minutes and a large assortment of materials to build the barricade.

Teams are then directed to the refuge station to await instructions. Near the station they find an uninjured miner in fresh air seeking help for his partner who has been impaled on rebar. They place the

miner in the station, and proceed up ramp to help the injured miner.

Upon arriving at Scene 3, competitors find the miner suspended in the air on a rebar that has gone through his abdomen. Using an eDraulic combi tool, they are given 25 minutes to cut down the casualty, load him in the basket, and start transport to surface.

After the casualty is handed off to EMS they are told to get out of oxygen. Problem complete.



Firefighting

Competitors are advised of an underground fire at the Underground Research Facility. Travelling down ramp teams first encounter an arcing electrical panel, and a short distance farther, a large, unignited fuel spill between them and the

fire (burning pallets and straw). Foam fire extinguishers are available to cover the spill to prevent it from igniting. As they approach the fire, teams encounter significant heat, requiring them to use one hose on a fog stream to protect themselves, and a second hose on straight stream to fight the fire.



Technician

Technicians are given 30 minutes to service a non-functioning BG4, and repair all faults.



High Angle Rope Rescue

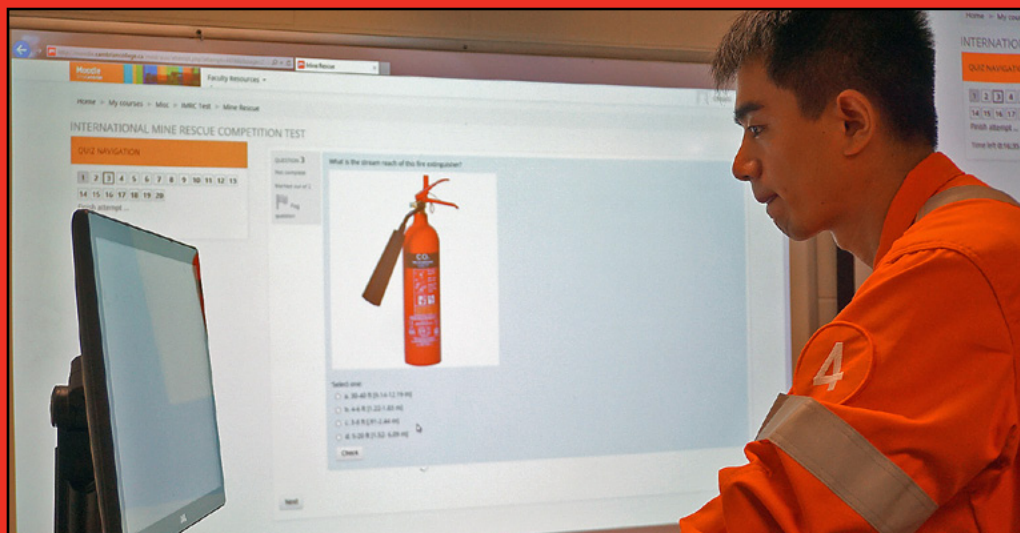
Competitors are summoned to an emergency at Dynamic Earth to rescue a worker assigned to scale the chasm walls. The worker was sent down from the top of the chasm on a rope system, became faint, and passed out about 40 ft. from the top of the chasm. Teams are to perform a pickoff to recover the suspended worker. Once at the bottom of the chasm, teams are to treat the casualty for suspension trauma.



First Aid

As they leave the underground emergency scenario site, competitors are told their assistance is required immediately at a surface site, a short driving distance away. Upon arrival, they see a small trash bin on fire, a large running drill, and three casualties. Teams are advised to make the area safe, perform first aid as required, and transport the most seriously injured casualty to the extraction

site. Casualty 1 suffered burns to her hand and a perforated ear drum. Casualty 2, tangled around the drill, has open fractures to an elbow and a tibia, and a deep laceration to a knee. Casualty 3, hanging from the drill, suffers from suspension trauma. After treating the casualties and arrival at the extraction site, they discover one casualty has no vital signs. Teams must perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a mannequin for 10 minutes.



Theory Exam

Three members from each team are given 30 minutes to collectively answer a computer-based, multiple-choice exam on

their knowledge of mine gases, firefighting, and other emergency response activities. Teams score weighted marks by correctly answering each question on the first, second, or third attempt.



Congratulations to IMRC champions

Overall

- 1st – Canada, Kirkland Lake Gold
- 2nd – Ireland, Boliden Tara Mines
- 3rd – Poland, KGHM White Eagles

Emergency Underground Scenario

- 1st – Canada, Kirkland Lake Gold
- 2nd – Canada, Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine
- 3rd – Ireland, Boliden Tara Mines

Firefighting

- 1st – Poland, Bytom
- 2nd – USA, MSHA Mine Emergency Unit No. 1
- 3rd – Canada, Cameco McArthur River

First Aid

- 1st – Australia, Peabody Energy Wambo Coal
- 2nd – Ireland, Boliden Tara Mines
- 3rd – Canada, Cameco McArthur River

High Angle Rope Rescue

- 1st – Poland, KGHM White Eagles
- 2nd – Canada, Cameco McArthur River
- 3rd – Canada, Vale Sudbury West Mines

Theory

- 1st – Canada, Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine
- 2nd – Goldcorp Americas
- 3rd – Canada, Vale Sudbury West Mines

Technician

- 1st – Russia, EMERCOM
- 2nd – China, Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Group
- 3rd – USA, MSHA Mine Emergency Unit No. 1



Kirkland Lake Gold

First Overall, first in Emergency Underground Scenario – Back row: Briefing Officer Lynne Thompson, Jason Dicaire, Jonathan Boutin, Hubert Gour, Alex Thompson, Norm Gannon Jr. Front row: Terry McKnight, Ben Young, Scott Gillett.



Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine

First in Theory, second in Emergency Underground Scenario – Back row: George Boutilier, Briefing Officer Drew Anderson, Captain Jim Ahrens, Chris Lammerant, Matt VandenHeuvel, Jeff Sowerby. Front row: Joel Paquette, Dennis Hogan, Aaron Duckworth, Jack Miller.



Vale Sudbury West Mines

Third in High Angle Rope Rescue, third in Theory – Mario Ceccon, Gord Sullivan, Kayla Menard, Captain Kevin Duff, Jeff Farquharson, Roch Berthiaume, Jim Niesing, Briefing Officer Paul Aho.



KGHM Sudbury

John Laasenen, Geneviève Krasowski, Joel Larcher, Darryl Gilchrist, Captain Tom Hopkins, Brian Melis, Don Campeau, Matt Larose.



Mine Rescue Officer Dan Rulli conducts an underground training session with volunteers at Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine.

New MROs rely on veteran volunteers

Continued from page 1

“It’s a good group of guys in this district,” says the former volunteer with Wesdome’s Eagle River Mine, who saw “the same type of culture in the other districts” during his travels while training.

Both Mine Rescue Officers rely on the support of more experienced volunteers.

“They might not be as current on things as I am, because they no longer compete, but I draw on them and their experience during training,” says Krell.

“I recognize them as mentors, not only to me, but the rest of the volunteers I’m trying to train,” says Rulli. “They have tribal knowledge that should be passed along.”

Ensuring that volunteers get the required training hours has been a common challenge.

“It’s hard to make sure everyone gets the training,” says Krell, especially when the lesson requires extra preparation, such as working in smoke or using the rock splitter. A close working relationship with an operation’s mine rescue co-ordinator is key.

“Training, at times, seems to take a backseat to production,” says Rulli. “It can be a challenge to keep mine rescue at the top of the list,” not just the training, but maintaining the roster.

While Rulli also finds keeping up with Ontario Mine Rescue’s “paperwork” a challenge, for Krell it’s the extra hours required to travel the distances between the mines in his district, which makes scheduling “manageable but difficult.”



Mine Rescue Officer Mike Krell, centre, gives a lesson in knot tying to volunteers Mark O’Connor, left, and Marvin Spencer, right, at Wesdome’s Eagle River Mine.

The appointment of a new MRO, based in Thunder Bay, to help serve Red Lake and Thunder Bay/Algoma districts should ease the situation, he says.

Nonetheless, he and Rulli are looking forward to their second year and years beyond.

“I was really nervous last year when it came to competition training,” says Krell, who trained teams for the district event, but not the provincial.

“Lac des Iles won the district, so Duane (Croswell) trained them. So I’m still looking forward to do that.”

This year Rulli will be the host MRO for the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, to be held at Compass Mineral’s Goderich Mine in June 2017.

“We’re looking forward to that,” he said. In fact, “all the (southern district) mines are interested in (hosting) that” so there’s a lot to look forward to.

“I was really impressed by the (mine rescue) staff. It’s a great group of guys, very knowledgeable and easy to get along with,” says Krell. “We all share the same passion for mine rescue.”

Lessons learned, & remembered

Recent incidents underline mutual aid, standardization, leadership training

Emergencies don't always teach hard lessons, sometimes – like two incidents on the same day earlier this year – they underline how successfully older, valuable lessons have been learned.

The first, a mine fire at Alamos Gold's Young-Davidson Mine not only tested the strength of the operation's emergency response plan and its activation of Ontario Mine Rescue procedures, but demonstrated the importance of mutual aid, standardized training, and the leadership component of competition training.

The incident, which required mine rescue involvement for almost 11 hours, also illustrated the high level of commitment of mine rescue volunteers from multiple mines, most of whom were enjoying Father's Day with their families, but promptly responded when called to action.

Alamos emergency procedures were efficient at protecting the 85 workers underground, establishing a management control group, and activating Ontario Mine Rescue procedure. The control group quickly recognized the need for additional resources, and issued a mutual aid call.

Kirkland Lake District mines had earlier recognized the need for mutual aid and prepared for it, not only by negotiating an agreement, but by also holding cross-training opportunities.

Volunteers from Alamos, supplemented by volunteers from Kirkland Lake Gold East Timmins and Kirkland Lake Gold Macassa Mine, formed five mine rescue teams to rescue two miners, safeguard the remaining workers, and extinguish an intense bolter fire on the 9800 Level.

While the captains of Teams 1, 2 and 3 were members of the Alamos's 2016 competition team, three briefing officers, one from each of the three operations, were members of their mine's 2016 competition teams. Jeff St-Martin of Alamos, Lino Therrien of KLG Macassa, and Lynne Thompson of KLG East Timmins, worked seamlessly with the Alamos control group and their teams.

During the incident, teams were kept busy. They first protected and removed an ill miner from a fresh air tent in a contaminated environment, before assessing and extinguishing the fire with AFFF; and then were re-directed to protect and remove another ill miner



PRIMERO INCIDENT

Bryan Bilodeau
George McGhee
Mike Brazeau
Sylvain Faladreau

ALAMOS GOLD FIRE

TEAM 1

Shawn Deforge
Trevor Hale
Stephane Rivard
Ryan Layland
Patrick Dubroy

TEAM 2

Pierre Belanger
Jesse Vaillancourt
Donald Harvey
Mathew Lapointe
Eric Gagne

TEAM 3

Joey Roy
Nathan Winter (KLG-M)
Niels Hendrix
Serge Daviau (KLG-M)
Marc Leveille

TEAM 4

Nicholas Perrier (KLG-M)
Rob Crake
Wesley Cairns
Gislain Seibert (KLG-M)
Devan Hartley

TEAM 5

Shawn Deforge
Ben Young (KLG-M)
Alex Thompson (KLG-E)
Jamie McFarland (KLG-M)
Mathew Lapointe

(Volunteers from Alamos Gold Young-Davidson Mine unless noted.)

from a second fresh air tent, also in a contaminated environment.

On an on-going basis they monitored the fire site; re-applied the foam and extinguished the fire when it re-kindled; checked and cleared personnel from the mine below the 9800 Level; checked and reset fans on 6 Level; and evacuated the rest of the mine.

Teams spent a total of more than 10 hours under oxygen. Both casualties were treated for smoke inhalation at hospital, but were otherwise uninjured.

Meanwhile, an incident Primero's Black Fox Mine further demonstrated the importance of the leadership component of competition training. A worker was pinned by loose that had fallen from the back, but within 15 minutes of a radio call for help by his partner, he was rescued – his partner dug him out and dragged him to safety – and receiving first aid.

The critical injury incident did not

need a Mine Emergency Response that required mine operations to stop or OMR procedures to be activated. Nonetheless four trained mine rescuers, including the captain and two team members of Primero's 2016 competition team, responded to the radio call, as did a supervisor and two other miners.

Their training kicked in as the "unofficial" rescue team under their own direction, used a first aid kit and a basket from a nearby refuge station to treat the casualty's suspected broken vertebrae, and lacerations to the hands and face, and prepare him for transport with a backboard and cervical collar.

Only 45 minutes after arriving at the scene, they brought the casualty to surface using an underground personnel carrier and handed him off to Emergency Medical Services.

Both incidents underlined that valuable lessons learned, were well worth remembering.



Shawn Kirwan

Mine Rescue mourns MRO, specialist

Ontario Mine Rescue is mourning the death of Mine Rescue Officer, Emergency Services Specialist, and friend Shawn Kirwan.

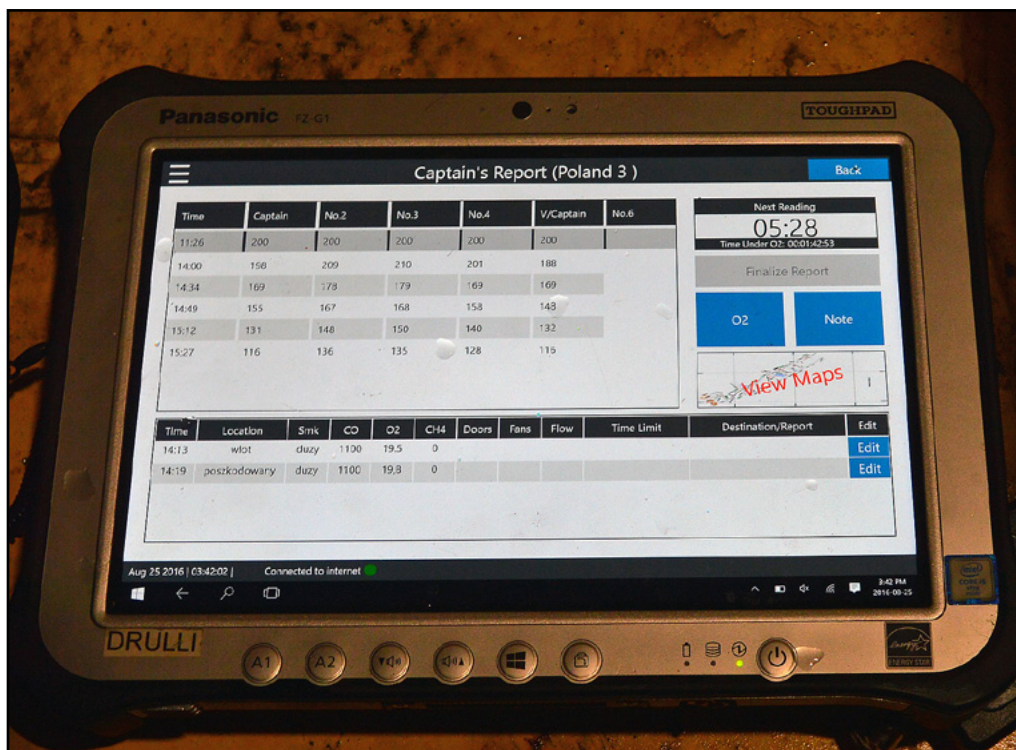
Kirwan served as a mine rescue volunteer for 18 years with Falconbridge, and competed in several provincial mine rescue competitions, before joining Ontario Mine Rescue in 2005 as a Mine Rescue Officer stationed in Thunder Bay.

His extensive experience as a member of the Strathcona Fire Department and part-time firefighter for Onaping Falls, made him a clear choice several years later to be OMR's first Emergency Services Specialist based in Sudbury.

Kirwan helped to develop, and then present, courses in firefighting, confined space rescue, hazardous material emergency response, and working at heights, among others. He travelled across Ontario in his role, as well as Canada and the world, including Ireland, Finland and Turkey.

On behalf of Ontario Mine Rescue, Kirwan helped launch a mine rescue program in Newfoundland and Labrador, and then assisted in implementing that province's working at heights program.

His knowledge, patience and quiet demeanor, and quick, dry wit, earned him respect and friends throughout the mine rescue community.



Ontario Mine Rescue is testing a draft tablet application to replace the captain's clipboard.

Volunteers get their turn to test tablet application

Ontario Mine Rescue volunteers are now getting their turn to test a tablet app designed to replace the captain's clipboard.

Volunteers in two districts will test the tablet app while training in November and December, after which app designer FocusFS will make final tweaks, said Senior Mine Rescue Officer Shawn Rideout.

OMR purchased three tablets to test the software during the International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) and the current trials.

During the IMRC, most competition teams quickly caught on to how to use the app based solely a 45-minute hands-on introduction prior to the event.

"We had great success with it," Rideout said. Approximately 20 of the 27 competition teams used the device, and "14 or 15 of the teams used it very successfully."

"The Ontario teams used it to its full capability," he said, and of all the teams that used the tablet with the app designed by FocusFS and OMR, "50 per cent of the teams did not want to go back to paper" at subsequent activities.

"Our next step is to roll it out to the districts for additional trials," and then consult with the Newfoundland and Labrador software company for final tweaks, Rideout said.

"We're about 95 per cent of the way there."

If a mine is equipped with Wi-Fi, "the biggest advantage is when a team is

underground and they run into a stumbling block, they can livestream the data (such as an image) to the control group," Rideout said. There is an immediate understanding of the situation the team faces, he said.

Even in mines without Wi-Fi, the tablet app offers advantages, including the ability to include photos in reports, improved legibility, and electronic documents that can be easily shared.

"It is a powerful tool that will eventually replace the captain's clipboard," said OMR General Manager Ted Hanley.

Meanwhile, testing and development will continue on the Draeger FPS 7000 facemask units with the FPS COM communications attachment. Mine rescue volunteers in Southern and Kirkland Lake districts, as well as the IMRC gave the product a qualified thumbs up in testing.

Testing identified issues with radio frequencies and gain, cleaning procedures, and training, Rideout said. Testing is to continue in two different districts.

"There is a learning curve in using them," he said. "Twenty-seven of 27 teams experienced communications issues during the first hour of competing underground at the IMRC, until they got used to how it functions."

After the first hour, the issues quickly disappeared, he said.

Among the issues was shouting or speaking too loudly into the unit, Rideout said. "The unit works best, and very well, when the operator speaks in a normal voice."

Measures improve competition

Continued from page 1

The event, held in Sudbury during August and won by Kirkland Lake Gold, was extremely competitive with 13 of the 27 teams, and eight of the 13 participating nations, winning at least one award. Ten teams were within five per cent of winning the competition.

Host countries have dominated previous competitions, so IMRC2016 organizers invited international judges, removed procedural specifics to standardize rules, and broadly distributed competition information. Judges represented eight nations and five Canadian jurisdictions.

The competition didn't achieve the level of standardization it targeted – “there are differences between coal and mineral mines that will never be bridged” – but “we created a platform for that (standardization) to occur” in future competitions, Gryska said.

“The Russians have looked at what we did, and many parts of our recipe are going to be integrated in their plan. They really want to build on what we have done.”

But “if there was a home run in any area, it was in realism,” he said. The underground emergency and fire scenarios, as well as first aid and rope rescue, had participants talking, and the Russians taking plenty of notes.

“I continue to get emails from participants who thoroughly enjoyed the competition,” particularly the realism, Gryska said.

As well as realism, “there were things (successes) that weren't even on the radar.”

While attention was firmly focused on the international aspect, Gryska said, the competition had a similar impact on the mine rescue community in Canada.

“It really improved mine rescue harmony and connections across Canada. There was so much positive feedback from the other (Canadian teams),” these relationships can be developed, he said.

The former general manager of Ontario Mine Rescue is optimistic that IMRC2018 will build on this year's event.

“The Russians have been key drivers in setting international standards. I believe the Russians are going to take it a step further.”

And while Gryska's attendance is still a question mark, he is confident Canadian teams will make the trip to compete.



Who is That?

Forget the brown (!) mine rescue van. Ontario Mine Rescue wants to put names to the faces of the Royal Oak mine rescue team from the 1994 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition. If you can identify members of the team, please email kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca. See Page 9 for names for previous Who is That?



Good Seal?

Mine Rescue Officer Danny Taillefer checks the seal on a volunteer-in-training during a recent visit to Centre Educatif Rayon de Soleil in Timmins. Taillefer and mine rescue volunteer Daniel Lapointe gave 28 children, ages 7 to 12, an introduction to mine rescue, as well as hands-on training with the eDraulic splitter, the BG4, and fire extinguishers.

IMRC2016 by the numbers

- 27 teams from 13 nations, 4 Canadian provinces
- 21 possible awards (bronze, silver & gold in six events, plus overall)
- 8 of 13 nations won awards
- 13 of 27 teams won awards
- 10 teams placed within 5 per cent of first
- 8 nations, and 5 Canadian jurisdictions sent judges/representatives



Mystery solved

After several months of investigation, Pierre Peloquin identified all the members of the Campbell Mine mine rescue team at the 1978 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition. Back row: Mike Newman, Gilbert St. Vincent, Bill Carlin, Don Forsythe. Front row: Terry Byberg, Tony Vermette, Art Russel, Hans Schareck.



Hey! That's . . .

Simone Hensher and Doug Brown identified members of the Noranda Geco's mine rescue team that represented Thunder Bay District in the 1986 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition. Back row: Shawn Donovan, Yvan Pilon, Mike Zaiser, Nick Zapotochny. Front row: Greg Hobson, Mark Saure, Gunther Zotter. See Page 8 for this issue's Who is That?

Ontario Mine Rescue

Head Office (Sudbury) 705-670-5707

President & CEO

Candys Ballanger-Michaud ext. 287
candysballangermichaud
@workplacesafetynorth.ca

General Manager

Ted Hanley M. 705-690-0928
tedhanley@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Chief Mine Rescue Officer

Shawn Rideout ext. 339
shawnrideout@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Emergency Services Specialist

Tim Ebbinghaus ext. 316
timebbinghaus@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
Mike Krell
michaekrell@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Kirkland Lake Station 705-567-4606
Wayne Baker
waynebaker@workplacesafetynorth.ca
Shawn Shail
shawnsail@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
Dan Rulli
danrulli@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Thunder Bay Station 807-344-8211
Duane Crowell
duanecrowell@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Timmins Station 705-235-4861
Danny Taillefer
dannytaillefer@workplacesafetynorth.ca
Jason Leger
jasonleger@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