



Link Line



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

Issue #35 Spring 2018

One error cost 50 demerits

But first team to win Sudbury District 'did well'

Despite being penalized 50 demerits for its first error, Edmond Poirier thought his team from Levack Mine did pretty good in their mine rescue competition debut – the first Sudbury District Mine Rescue Competition in 1964.

“It was a 50-point deduction for going through a charging station without extinguishing our light, our oxygen lamp. Other than that, I think we did well,” said Poirier, now living in Elliot Lake.

“Even with that 50-point deduction, the Levack team was able to win the very first competition that Inco (now Vale) held within its own mines. And we also won the second one,” he said, recalling that four or five other Inco mines, including Creighton, Frood-Stobie and Garson, would have competed in 1964.

“I was the captain alright, but the fellows (Fred Mooney, Ed Luoma, Ken Miron, Mel Guse, Bob Nadeau, and R. Glassford) were very studious. I had good men working with me,” said Poirier, who “would put them



LET'S DO IT AGAIN – The first-ever Sudbury District Mine Rescue Competition champions in 1964, the Levack Mine team led by captain Ed Poirier, third from left, pose for a photo. Most of the team returned for a repeat district victory the following year.

in full gear and run them outside for 20 minutes or so,” before training sessions.

“I remember going to the provincials twice and we didn't do too well, but we didn't shame ourselves either,” said Poirier.

Both teams finished third in the subsequent

provincial competitions.

His only regret in 20-plus years of volunteer service with Ontario Mine Rescue, said Poirier, is that “I retired too soon.”

See 'NOT JUST' Page 4

90th anniversary plans anyone?

Next year, 2019, will mark 90 years of dedicated service to Ontario Mine Rescue by mine rescue volunteers – literally thousands of men and women over a near-century – committed to the safety and well-being of their co-workers.

From the time Austin Neame was appointed Ontario's first Mine Rescue Officer and opened the first mine rescue station in Timmins in 1929, volunteers have responded to every call in every Ontario

mining community, contributing to making OMR a world leader in mine rescue.

We think that is worthy of recognition.

So tell us how you think the occasion should be recognized.

All suggestions are welcome, and will be considered and evaluated by OMR based on practicality and available resources (staff and volunteer time, equipment, and, yes, financial cost).

Ideally, suggestions should focus on you, the volunteer – past and present, and involve all mining communities in the province, but if you think there's something that should be done in one community or for one person, we still want to hear about it.

Email your suggestions to: kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca

We'll update you on some of the suggestions, and maybe some plans, in the Fall/Winter Link Line.

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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1995 – Mine rescuer Dave Hay



2002 – Vice-captain Day Hay

A competitor for all positions

Hay makes it 24 years of 'good memories'

As he entered his 24th consecutive year in mine rescue competitions, including 15 provincial events as a competitor and several as a judge, Goldcorp Red Lake Gold Mines' Dave Hay can still keep the competition details straight.

His first provincial in 1995?

"It was in Marathon. There was a total of five missing men. There was a fire in an electrical sub underground, I believe. The first two men we came across were two mine rescued-trained men in a fresh air raise, no injuries, and they had SSR90s with them," Hay recalled without hesitation.

"A geotechnical team took refuge in a vehicle. They were the second two men we found. The last one was in the electrical substation. We had to cut our way through a door to get to him. He was unconscious, broken forearm, in contamination."

Hay had just joined Ontario Mine Rescue, completing his Basic and Standard courses, when he was approached that year by the team at then Placer Dome's Campbell Mine.

"I questioned them on it 'Why would you approach me, I just started?' I guess they needed that last person to get on the

team and they knew I was pretty keen on it. So I agreed and it turned out to be a good thing."

Such a good thing that Hay can't stop accumulating good memories, having competed in all the utility positions, vice-captain, captain, briefing officer, and technician. He wants more.

"Ninety-nine in Thunder Bay was a curious one. We had to cut our way through a tunnel set filled with rebar and drill steel with the bolt cutters . . . There were some pretty keen press reporters who were out the first day, and they published the paper the next morning with a picture on the front page of men cutting through with the bolt cutters.

CONFISCATED NEWSPAPERS

"So there was a big scurry to confiscate all the newspapers so the teams on the second day didn't see what the scenario was. It provide some humourous moments."

Coincidentally, that year Hay's Campbell Mine team won the Special Equipment Award.

In 2001, "they had three fellows in a refuge station. I believe that was the first time they had more than two casualties," said Hay, noting Campbell Mine won that year.

"2008 was the first year I captained in

a provincial," he recalled. "Except for my vice-captain, all the other members were rookies. We finished fourth. We had a pretty good showing there."

His favourite position has been as captain because of the added challenge.

"You have to do . . . the leading, be involved in a lot of the decisions, work with your briefing officer. It challenges all your skills really. You're in charge of four other individuals down there, and need to get the work organized and the flow going."

Twenty-plus years of competition has kept Hay abreast of the many changes, equipment and otherwise, in Ontario Mine Rescue.

"When I started we had the flame lamp which you'd have to have a pretty keen eye to discern the different levels of oxygen and methane you'd measure. The CO testers were all plungers which are still relevant, but today's electronics are a lot more accurate, safer."

And then, communications "was always via Femco phones, we didn't have the leaky feeder radios," he said, and now "just this past year we just started using tablets for the briefing officer and the captain to communicate . . . so you'd have not only voice communications but you could transfer data" such as maps and photos.

See 'COMPETITION' Page 5



2008 – Captain Dave Hay



2015 – Briefing Officer Dave Hay

All in the Mine Rescue Family

Drägerman Stories, produced and released by Dräger Safety early this year, brought a passionate response from Ontario Mine Rescue volunteers, eager to acknowledge their family's contributions to mine rescue.

Long-time volunteer at Vale, Mike Gillis emailed to advise us that the Gillis family is to Vale, as the Boutet family is to Glencore, three generations of Ontario Mine Rescue volunteers.

The Boutets are among the OMR volunteers and families featured in Drägerman Stories.

When Mike Gillis joined OMR shortly after starting work at INCO in 1971 his father Harold had already been a volunteer for more than 10 years, having joined in the 1950s. Harold was one of the volunteers from Levack who travelled to Timmins to fight the McIntyre Mine Fire in 1965.

Mike's son Kurtis followed in his grandfather and father's footsteps, working for Vale and volunteering for mine rescue.

Last fall, Faheema Velji-Shears and Scott Shears became the third OMR married couple (Congratulations!), though unlike Frances and Wilfrid Machimity, and Lynne and Alex Thompson, who worked for the same companies, Faheema and Scott work for different mining companies.

Velji-Shears joined mine rescue at Tahoe Canada's Bell Creek Complex in September, while Shears is a volunteer with Goldcorp. Their mine rescue relationship is currently on a 'mutual aid basis,' though that could change if they both decide to compete.

Other volunteers called and emailed to add their branches to the family tree.

The list of sons following their fathers into mine rescue, and often the same company, has also been extended.

In Timmins, Riley Beamish followed father Ken into mine rescue, while Mike Van Roon and son James are volunteers at Lac des Iles Mine. Andre Lefebvre followed his father Mike into mine rescue and Xstrata Nickel, now Glencore.

Longtime volunteers Doug and Greg Trahan joined OMR in Elliot Lake and were both trained by now retired Mine Rescue Officer Ken Pierce.

Doug's father-in-law, Jean-Guy Rondeau served as a volunteer in Timmins District during the 1950s and '60s.



Each photo links to its video, or for links to all the videos visit:
www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue

Family branches

Multiple Generations

- Grandfather Mike, father Ron, & grandson Aaron Boutet
- Grandfather Joe Pacione & grandson Glen Duffy
- Grandfather Harold, father Mike, & grandson Kurtis Gillis

Fathers & Sons/Daughters

- Mine Rescue Officer Walter & Kevin Adler
- Ken & Riley Beamish
- Denis & Anne Bilodeau
- Ernie & Gerry Champagne
- Jacques & Guy Champagne
- Jack & Joe & Pete Joliet
- Craig & Andrew Jorgenson
- Roy & Mine Rescue Officer Mike Krell
- Mike & Andre Lefebvre
- Joe & Jim Lundrigan
- Stanley & Mitch MacLeod
- Colin & Ryan Pickett
- Mel & Chief Mine Rescue Officer Shawn Rideout
- Claude & Andre Timony
- Dave & Brad Towle
- Mike & James Van Roon
- Bryan & Justin Wilson

Brothers

- Retired Mine Rescue Officer John & Brian Hagan
- Jack & Roger Joliet
- Joe & Pete Joliet
- Rob & Rick Ladouceur
- Ryan & J.P. Lepage
- Doug & Greg Trahan

Couples+

- Frances & Wilfrid Machimity (and nephew Ron)
- Lynne & Alex Thompson
- Scott Shears & Faheema Velji-Shears

Father/Sons-in-Law

- Former Mine Rescue Officer John Hagan & Andrew Jorgenson
- Gabe Larouche & Rob Ladouceur
- Jean-Guy Rondeau & Doug Trahan
- Guy Sabourin & Jim Lundrigan

Brothers-in-Law

- Chris Horde & Dan Kuppinen

Cousins

- Chris Horde & Ryan & J.P. Lepage

Uncle/Nephews

- Roger & Joe & Pete Joliet

Uncle-in-law/Nephew

- Leo-Paul Seguin & Jim Lundrigan



‘Where’s our facemasks?’

Mine rescue volunteers will soon notice the Dräger FPS 7000 facemask in their substations, but they may have to wait to see tablet computers replace the captain’s clipboard.

Over the next several years, Ontario Mine Rescue will gradually replace the yellow Panorama Nova Masks used with the BG4 breathing apparatus with the newer, black FPS 7000 mask equipped with voice amplification modules.

The new masks were field tested during the last two years in several districts and during the 2016 International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) in Sudbury. When equipped with a communications module, the mask can be directly connected to a radio improving the overall quality of voice communication.

Initially, all substations will receive two FPS 7000 masks to be used by team captains and vice-captains, said Chief Mine Rescue Officer Shawn Rideout, but as the older masks are replaced eventually all teams members will be equipped with them.

A radio capable of connecting to mine operation frequencies must be used with the FPS 7000 COM, but the initial procedure for use will dictate teams have a second radio not connected to the mask. This will allow audio to be heard by team members directly, rather than relying on the captain to relay all messages.

Meanwhile, details on rolling out OMR’s high-tech upgrade to the captain’s clipboard are still being worked on. The tablet with an app custom-designed for mine rescue was a popular innovation during trials across several districts, at the IMRC and the 2017 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition. The tablets will be used in the 2018 Provincial Competition.



NICE TROPHY – Inco’s Manager of Mines, John McCready, left, presented the McCready Trophy for the first-time ever to Levack Mine rescue team captain Ed Poirier, and team members Ed Luoma, Albert Last, Andy Wisniewski, Mel Guse, briefing officer Ken Miron, and vice-captain Bob Nadeau, following the second Sudbury District Mine Rescue Competition in 1965.

‘Not just anyone’ invited to join Inco mine rescue

Continued from Page 1

He started mine rescue training in 1962, after leading the Levack Mine’s competition-winning first aid team for several years, and retired a few years after his last provincial competition as a briefing officer in 1982.

“I’ll always regret not having the 25-year pin.”

Back then, mine rescue “didn’t just pick up anyone,” Poirier said. “They chose whomever they thought would be best for the team, both physically and mentally. You’d have to prove yourself without even thinking about mine rescue.”

When asked, “I jumped at the chance,” said Poirier, who had joined Inco in 1950.

He had been drawn to the first aid team and Lively’s volunteer fire service from personal experience. When he was young, his parents’ homestead burned to the ground. Two siblings died in the fire, and his father, severely injured trying to save them, died a few days later.

Joining mine rescue was extension of his motivation to prevent and fight fires, and help people, but the only mine fire Poirier ever responded to as a mine rescuer was the 1965 McIntyre Mine Fire in Timmins.

“It’s strange that all that training and I only got to use it once,” said Poirier, who led his Levack team during the response, and like other mine rescuers at the incident, struggled to use the two-hour McCaa breathing apparatus fighting the remote fire.

“We’d have to go down two different cages. We’d go down to one level, and then take another cage to another level. By the time we got to the site for the work to be

done, we’d have to break all the rules in order to get 10 minutes work done, and then run back (to surface) with our (alarm) bells ringing,” he said.

“Once we got established where the work had to be done, they brought down large cylinders” to recharge the McCaas. The team spent most of its response time building barricades to seal off ventilation to the fire and contain the high expansion foam used to extinguish it.

“By the time we got the walls up, the foam machine going, we knew where the fire originated, and McIntyre figured from that point on they could continue with their own teams, and that was it, we came home” as heroes and proud of the job done, he said.

During his time on mine rescue, Poirier saw the introduction of foam firefighting and the BG174, which after the challenge of the McIntyre Fire, was welcomed, but he has an intense curiosity about how mine rescuers work now.

“I would like to see the changes. I understand they have speakers, microphones now, because we didn’t have that. We had sign language.” Also, railed equipment was standard, so “in a very smoky area we guided ourselves by the rail, so what do you do now?” he asked.

Poirier, as a special guest at the Sudbury and Onaping Districts Competition in May, caught up on equipment and procedures with a new generation of mine rescuers.

“There’s nothing more proud that I did at Inco than being on mine rescue. It was such an honour working with the fellows and being part of the team.”

New substation opens at Borden Lake

Add one new mine rescue substation at Borden Lake Mine to Ontario Mine Rescue's map.

"Opening the mine rescue substation is the first step in becoming a full operating mine," Marc Lauzier, general manager of Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mines and Goldcorp operations in the Timmins area, told employees and guests at the substation's official opening.

The mine, approximately 10 kilometres east of Chapleau and 190 kilometres west of Timmins, is to be the first all-electric mine in Ontario.

"We've been receiving lots of calls. Everyone is watching us," said Lauzier, adding "other companies have wanted to do this (go all-electric) for a while."

The thoroughly modern and spacious substation, adjacent to the mine's administration module, is fully equipped with mainly new and some used equipment, plentiful cabinet space, and expansive central workbench with drawers.

Six drawers on each side, designated for a specific team position, hold a BG4 and the



READY FOR ACTION – Mine rescue volunteers Joe Joliat, left, and Marc Charron pull out their facemasks during the official opening of Borden Lake Mine's new mine rescue substation.

standard equipment for that position.

"We're looking forward to winning the provincial competition," said Lauzier,

noting that Goldcorp operations in Timmins and Red Lake have demonstrated their mine rescue expertise.

Competition appeal fueled by technology, experiences

Continued from Page 2

In fact new technology, like the tablet, contributed to making last year's provincial competition "rank up there pretty high" among Hay's favourite competitions.

"I went down as technician but I travelled with the team (Red Lake District winners Musselwhite Mine). We've competed against them in our district many times, and they came up with their first provincial (championship)."

"That was nice to see. I know what that feeling is like to win that title and trophy, and get the bragging rights. I felt really good for those guys," Hay said.

Not to mention that for Hay and most competitors, "it was a new experience being in a salt mine, the sheer size of it, and seeing the different things they would have to deal with and the distances they would have to travel in an emergency."

So maybe because of the great experiences Hay isn't quite ready to retire from competition.

"I'm going to try and finish up as a technician.

"If they'll let me, I'd like to . . . round it out with 25 years consecutive. That's my goal," he said, but then . . . "who knows, if



2017 – Technician Dave Hay

some of the guys ask me to come back and help carry the basket, I'm still up for that too."



Paying Sudbury a Visit

Ron Kelusky, a former paramedic recently appointed as Ontario's new Chief Prevention Officer, dropped by the Sudbury Mine Rescue Station to say 'Hello', check out the equipment, and the facility with OMR General Manager Ted Hanley. Earlier in the visit, he attended and presented awards at Workplace Safety North's annual Mining Health and Safety Conference.



Farewell Walter . . .

Say a warm farewell to Walter Adler.

After 13-plus years as a Mine Rescue Officer, much of it spent giving introductory courses to a generation of mine rescue volunteers (and Mine Rescue Officers) across the province, Walter (Wally) is retiring June 1.

It is his second retirement, after having retired from Falconbridge, where he started to work in 1970, and received his mine rescue training in 1986.

While at Falconbridge's Onaping Mine, Wally competed in five provincial competitions as a team member in 1988, as briefing officer in 1992 and 1993, and captain in 1995 and 1996. In his final appearance as a competitor, his Onaping/Craig Mine team won the provincial competition.

After leaving Falconbridge, Wally was hired by Ontario Mine Rescue on a contract basis as a Mine Rescue Officer in 2002. The contract position became permanent in 2005.

Based in Sudbury, Wally travelled across Ontario in a support role to the

district Mine Rescue Officers, principally easing their workload by giving introductory courses.

He has given introductory courses for mine rescue volunteers at virtually every operating mine in the province, as well as given the introductory training to most of the current Mine Rescue Officers.

Wally served in many other capacities including training post-secondary students in mine rescue, providing refresher training, and assisting in district mine rescue competitions.

To new and old mine rescue competitors, he became known as the chief floor judge or "guide" during provincial competitions, giving the standard "As you see it" response to curious, stumped or, occasionally, devious team captains asking for information.



Walter Adler

. . . And welcome Scott

Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR), a part of Workplace Safety North, welcomes the addition of new Mine Rescue Officer - Emergency Services Specialist Scott Gillett.

Gillett joins OMR's Emergency Services Training Division from Kirkland Lake Gold's Holt Mine where he worked as an underground supervisor. He will be responsible for specialty training and consulting throughout Ontario.

To be based at the Sudbury Mine Rescue Station, Gillett received his Introductory Mine Rescue Training in 2013, and now holds both Advanced

and Technician Mine Rescue Certifications. He was an active Kirkland Lake Volunteer Firefighter.

A member of Kirkland Lake District-winning mine rescue teams in 2015 and 2017, he was also on the Kirkland Lake Gold Mine Rescue team that won the 2016 International Mines Rescue Competition in Sudbury.



Scott Gillett

KL Gold set to defend IMRC title

Mine rescue team members at Kirkland Lake Gold have their passports ready.

The team, winners of the 2016 International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) in Sudbury, will be defending their title at IMRC2018 in Russia.

Kirkland Lake is among 20 teams already accepted for the eleventh international competition, Sept. 22 to 29, in Ekaterinburg. The city is the fourth largest in Russia with a population of 1.5 million, a major mining centre, and the economic centre of the Urals.

Also returning to the competition are teams from Australia, Colombia, India, and Poland, which competed in IMRC2016 Canada. Returning to the competition following an absence is Turkey, and new to the event are teams from Zambia and Kazakhstan.

At least one other unidentified Canadian team has been accepted, and a third, the eventual winner of the Quebec provincial competition, is on the waiting list. As with the Sudbury competition, the first two qualified teams from each country are accepted, with subsequent applicants from those countries placed on a waiting list.

With openings for 30 teams, the application process is open until May 31, with final approvals given by the end of June. Four teams are currently on the waiting list.

Applications are also still being accepted for judges. Successful applicants come from Canada, Australia, Austria, United Kingdom, Colombia, and Peru, as well as Russia. There is, as yet, no judge from Ontario.

Events will include a mine rescue simulation; firefighting and first aid events; a virtual reality exercise, theory exam, and a technician competition.

For more information on the competition or to register as an individual, judge or team, visit www.en.imrc2018.ru.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way for the 2019 International Mines Rescue Body (IMRB) conference in Bogota, Columbia.

The ninth conference, Sept. 7 to 14, is the first in South America and expected to be the largest ever.



Who is That?

We know who they are, the 1983 Onaping District champion Falconbridge mine rescue team at the provincial competition in Sudbury, but we don't know who is who. If you can identify members of the team, please email kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca.



Are we stumped?

While Rob Nylund, of Goldcorp Red Lake Gold Mines, was able to identify his colleague Dave Villeneuve, bottom left, the other members of the 1993 Red Lake District champion Dona Lake Mine mine rescue team remained unidentified. So if you can identify any other members, please email kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca.

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