



# Sink Line

AN UPDATE FROM OMR ON YOUR MINE RESCUE PROGRAM

ISSUE #41 SPRING 2020

## Business as usual, almost Focus stays on mine rescue response during pandemic

The 2020 district and provincial competitions may be cancelled, but Ontario Mine Rescue and its almost 900 volunteers continue to be prepared, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We don’t want to compound the pandemic situation,” Ted Hanley, Ontario Mine Rescue vice president, told a recent OMR technical advisory committee meeting. But “should there be an emergency, we will absolutely marshal a mine rescue response with mine rescue equipment.”

A few Ontario mines have scaled down operations, and all have taken measures to

reduce the potential exposure of workers to the virus, district representatives told the meeting.

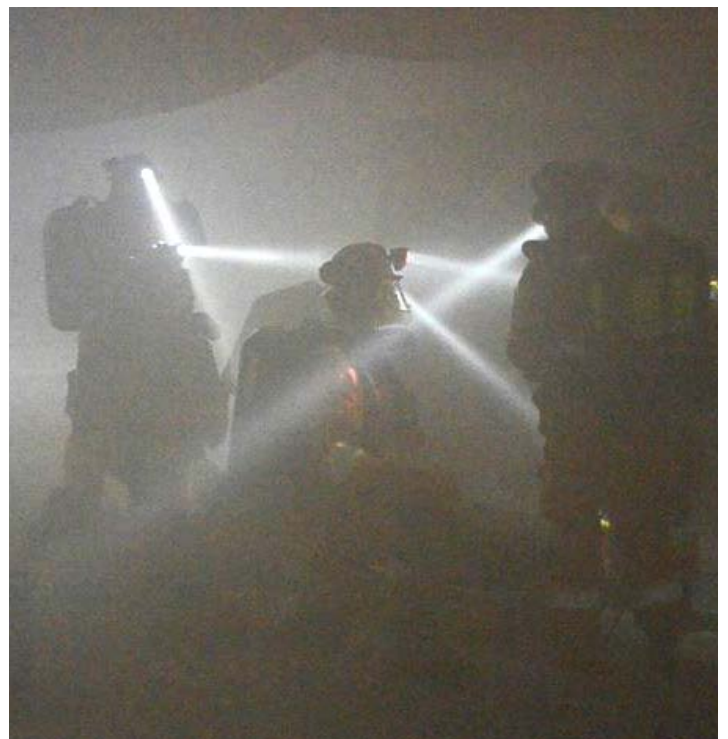
Site screening, temperature screening, splash guards, increased cleaning, administrative staff working from home or on rotation, staggered shifts, are almost universal measures for current operations. Others include reduced occupancy on cages, personnel vehicles and in lunchrooms with spaces marked off in all, the cancellation of non-critical contract work, and more.

But operations are also taking measures to ensure emergency response is available.

Vale is conducting daily calls to determine the status of its mine rescue volunteers available, says Vale’s Greg McMillan. As well, the mine rescue substations are locked down, and volunteers will be screened when responding to a callout.

Shawn Rideout, Chief Mine Rescue Officer, said that across the province “all mine rescue stations are currently locked down, and closed to the public and volunteers except during an emergency. Mine substations should be locked with minimal access to ensure everything is emergency ready.”

See ‘REFRESHER’ Page 2



**A MEMORY TO LAST** – Michael Vaillancourt will always remember competing in his first provincial mine rescue competition in 2018 for Vale East, using a photo of his team from the event for inspiration.

## Mine rescue tattoos say it all

### Achievement, commitment, honour, pride

Everything is covered, or almost.

Volunteer, mine rescue officer, man, woman, bicep, forearm, shoulder, back, calf, thigh are covered with tattoos to mark mine rescue competitions and victories, teams, family, personal achievement, and always the pride of being a mine rescuer working with other mine rescuers.

And what little isn’t covered yet, Adam Weagle hopes to cover.

Weagle, captain of the Tahoe Canada (now Pan American Silver) mine rescue team, told his teammates before the 2018 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition that if they won, “I’d get all their signatures tattooed on my rear end.”

They won, but he settled for a flame safety lamp as a personal tattoo to mark their victory and that “a tattoo of the plaque (with team names) we put on the trophy would be better” on the side of his bicep, though he’s not ruling out his butt for a future tattoo.

“If I get a new one every time I win a gold bucket, I’d gladly run out of room,” he said.

Michael Vaillancourt, a mine rescue volunteer with Vale, didn’t wait to win a provincial competition to get a tattoo to mark the experience and recognize his teammates from the 2018 provincial in Goderich.

“This was my first time competing at the provincial level and couldn’t have asked for a better team. I figured since the picture (of the team in the competition) was so cool and the majority of the team were all legends, it would make a great tattoo.”

See ‘IMRC2016’ Page 2





LYNNE BOUCHARD, Kirkland Lake Gold, Fosterville Mine, Australia

## IMRC2016 victory celebrated in ink

**Continued from Page 1**

The script – Save lives, fight fires – “is just a cheat sheet for the MCQs in case (Shawn) Rideout (Ontario Mine Rescue Chief Mine Rescue Officer) asks for the purpose of mine rescue teams . . . I’ll get half marks,” Vaillancourt said.

Lynne Bouchard, briefing officer for the Kirkland Lake Gold (KLG) team that won the 2016 International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) in Sudbury, also got a tattoo to mark the occasion.

“This was an amazing accomplishment in my book, and the whole team pledged to get tattoos if we won.”

“I got it on my hip, since there’s plenty of real estate to capture the details I wanted,” said Bouchard, who is currently

working for KLG’s Fosterville Mine in Victoria, Australia.

Bouchard’s contribution to the look include the Holt Mine headframe, overall design and colour selection, but she credits Brandon Shuman, a former cagetender at Macassa Mine turned Kirkland Lake tattoo artist, for inking the epic scene.

Sudbury District Mine Rescue Officer Scott Gillett, also a member of the KLG team, did not get a commemorative tattoo.

Also in the epic category is 2016 provincial champion and 20-plus-year mine rescue volunteer Jack Miller, of Compass Mineral’s Goderich Mine, whose “Refuse to Lose” tribute covers his back.

See ‘COMMITTED’ Page 3

## Refresher training a priority

**Continued from Page 1**

And though Mine Rescue Officers (MROs) may not be as visible as usual with refresher and competition training postponed, they are available to respond to any incident.

“Cancelling the competitions was not something we took lightly,” Rideout said, “and we looked at other options.”

But at the time of the cancellation, some volunteers had already gone three months without refresher training, he said. Adding competition training when training resumes would have distracted from critical refresher training and review.

“Refresher training needed to take priority,” Rideout said. In the meanwhile, MROs are working on creating short online lessons to at least refresh volunteers on theory and knowledge.

“Skills and field (training) components are key to what we do,” he said, but online training can provide a bridge until full training resumes.

Existing plans for the 2020 competition will carry forward to 2021, meaning this year’s scheduled host, Sudbury, will host the provincial event next June, and Southern District, which was to host next year, will now host in 2022.

## TAC update & staff changes

Time to adjust your Ontario Mine Rescue contact list.

**Iain McKillop**, of Glencore Kidd Operations in Timmins, has been elected chair of the OMR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

McKillop succeeds Onaping District Representative Jim Lundrigan, formerly of Glencore Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations, who has retired.

**Andre Lefebvre**, the Active Mine Rescue Volunteer’s representative on the TAC, has been elected vice chair, succeeding Kirkland Lake District Representative Dan Demers, of Alamos Gold.

**Brad Bastien**, of Glencore Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations has been appointed the new representative for Onaping District on the TAC.

Emergency Services Specialist **Scott Gillett** is now a Sudbury and Onaping District Mine Rescue Officer.

**Matt VandenHeuvel**, who joined OMR under contract in 2019, is now a permanent full-time Mine Rescue Officer Emergency Services Specialist with the Emergency Services Training Division.





JACK MILLER, Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine

## Committed to miners, mine rescue

**Continued from Page 2**

Though he's competed in seven provincial competitions and more district competitions during the past 20 years, the title inked in across Miller's shoulder blades, is not about those achievements.

"This tattoo represents the commitment of mine rescue team members to the safety of miners everywhere," said Miller, who acknowledged Scott Duncan of Sugar Shack Tattoos in Kincardine, "did an awesome job."

Antony Roy, a volunteer on what would have been Newmont's inaugural Borden Mine competition team this year, also commemorates miners with his tattoo.

**See additional tattoos Pg. 4**

"Got this tattoo in 2017 in honour of those who we lost over the years, and also at the time to commemorate my years of competing."

View these & other tattoos  
online in our Facebook album  
<https://bit.ly/2Why91D>  
to add your tattoo to the album  
email [OntarioMR@gmail.com](mailto:OntarioMR@gmail.com)

Likewise Kristy Guenette, of Kirkland Lake Gold's Holt Complex, said she "decided to get a tattoo dedicated to working underground and being able to join Ontario Mine Rescue."

And after overcoming challenges to work in mining and to join mine rescue, "this is me saying I am good enough and I can do what I want."

For Yannick Marchand, currently a mine rescue volunteer with Newmont in Timmins, his tattoo is also a symbol of pride.

"As a gold seal Ontario Mine Rescue man, it has become a passion and a brotherhood.

The tattoo design is to show how proud I am to be a part of Ontario Mine Rescue," Marchand said.

Colton Ridgway, a mine rescuer with the (nuclear) Waste Isolation Plant in New Mexico, who reached out to OMR to share his tattoo story, comes from a family of miners.

"My dad joined mine rescue right before I was born and he's done it ever since. Growing up around it just lit a fire in me of wanting to know more about it and wanting to be a part of it.

"When I was 21, I joined mine rescue and I've been a part of it ever since," said Ridgway, whose father is still with mine rescue.

"I am honoured to be alongside my dad with mine rescue. I got this tattoo because of the love I have always had for it since I was little."





ADAM WEAGLE  
Pan American Silver, Timmins Mines



COLTON RIDGWAY  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, New Mexico



KRISTY GUENETTE  
Kirkland Lake Gold, Holt Complex



DANNY TAILLEFER  
Ontario Mine Rescue, Timmins



ANTHONY ROY  
Newmont, Borden Mine



YANNICK MARCHAND  
Newmont



**WHO IS THAT? -**  
 A special challenge, we know this is the 1957 Onaping District champions and Provincial Mine Rescue Competition team from Falconbridge Nickel Mine Ltd.'s #5 Mine, but we don't know who is who. If you can identify members of the team, email [kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca).



**SAY THAT'S -** Thanks to Norm Begin, Terry Gregorash, Denis Leduc, Ken Stewart, Wayne Mohns, and Mike Krell for identifying Thunder Bay District champions Teck Corona's David Bell Mine at the 1996 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition in Sudbury. Back left: Glenn Young, Cory Wells, Don St. Amand, Paul Keller, and front left: Norm Ouellette, Norm Begin, Philippe Vizier and Capt. Don Trottier.



### ABOUT THE ONTARIO MINE RESCUE NEWSLETTER

The Ontario Mine Rescue newsletter is published three times per year by Workplace Safety North (WSN). WSN is funded by workplaces in the province through premiums paid to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

The information in this publication is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, the association assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or sufficiency of this information, nor does it endorse any product mentioned herein with the exception of those produced by Workplace Safety North.

### WORKPLACE SAFETY NORTH

Head office (North Bay)  
 (705) 474 7233

#### President & CEO

Paul Andre ext. 275  
[paulandre@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:paulandre@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### ONTARIO MINE RESCUE

#### SUDBURY OFFICE

(705) 670 5707

#### Vice President, Ontario Mine Rescue

Ted Hanley (705) 690 0928  
[tedhanley@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:tedhanley@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Chief Mine Rescue Officer

Shawn Rideout (705) 665 6933  
[shawnrideout@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:shawnrideout@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Chief Emergency Services Officer

Tim Ebbinghaus ext. 316  
[timebbinghaus@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:timebbinghaus@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Executive Assistant

Penny Pagan ext. 321  
[pennypagan@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:pennypagan@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Mine Rescue Assistant

Becky Barrett ext. 325  
[beckybarrett@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:beckybarrett@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### MINE RESCUE OFFICERS

#### Emergency Services Specialist

Matt VandenHeuvel ext. 331  
[mattvandenheuvel@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:mattvandenheuvel@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Algoma Station

(888) 730 7821

Mike Krell

ext. 357  
[michaelkrell@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:michaelkrell@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

Ted Greenwood

ext. 351  
[tedgreenwood@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:tedgreenwood@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Kirkland Lake Station

(888) 730 7821

Wayne Baker

ext. 313  
[waynebaker@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:waynebaker@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

Shawn Shail

ext. 360  
[shawnsail@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:shawnsail@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Sudbury and Onaping Stations

(705) 670 5707

Dan Davidson

ext. 329  
[dandavidson@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:dandavidson@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

Jeff Farquharson

ext. 344  
[jefffarquharson@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:jefffarquharson@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

Scott Gillett

ext. 352  
[scottgillett@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:scottgillett@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Red Lake Station

(888) 730 7821

Grant Saunders

ext. 312  
[grantsaunders@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:grantsaunders@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Southern Ontario Station

(888) 730 7821

Dan Rulli

ext. 359  
[danrulli@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:danrulli@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Thunder Bay Station

(888) 730 7821

Duane Crowwell

ext. 311  
[duanecrowwell@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:duanecrowwell@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### Timmins Station

(705) 235 4861

Danny Taillefer

[dannytaillefer@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:dannytaillefer@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

Jason Leger

[jasonleger@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:jasonleger@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

#### North Bay Office

(705) 474 7233

#### Communications/Program Development

Ken Sitter ext. 234  
[kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca)