



Link Line



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

Issue #29 Spring 2016

Competition season set to launch

Three events to keep attention focused on mine rescue

▶ **T**his year promises to be a long competition season for at least one Ontario Mine Rescue team, and anyone interested in mine rescue.

With training already underway for the district competitions – May 11 to 13 across the province (for details see Page 2) – for the team that represents Ontario Mine Rescue in the 10th International Mines Rescue Competition, August 19 to 26 in Sudbury, the season will end with that event.

While the winner of the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition, June 9 and 10, is guaranteed entry into IMRC 2016 – Canada, hosted by Workplace Safety North’s Ontario Mine Rescue, five Ontario teams have applied and are currently on the waiting list for admission to the event.

Sixteen mine rescue teams from nine countries have applied and been accepted as of May 3 for the 30-team competition. Four positions are reserved for the winners of four major Canadian regional mine rescue competitions, such as the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition.

Two other Canadian teams, from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, are also on the waiting list. Canadian admission is currently limited to allow as many international teams as possible to participate. Visit www.IMRC2016.ca for an up-to-date list of accepted teams and the waiting list.

IMRC 2016 Planning Co-ordinator and Secretary General of the International Mines Rescue Body, Alex Gyska says more international teams are expected to register.

See “MORE” Page 2

Teams Accepted for IMRC 2016 - Canada (maximum of 30 teams)		
Criteria for Team Selection		
International (Each nation is guaranteed two team admissions):		
	Australia	1. Hunter Valley NSW Mine Rescue NSW Mines Rescue
	Colombia	1. Colombia Coal Company National Agency of Mining Industry-Mining Authority of Colombia
		2. Gold Fever National Agency of Mining Industry-Mining Authority of Colombia
	India	1. Singareni Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.
		2. Coal India Ltd. Coal India Ltd.
	Ireland	1. Tara Mine Rescue Boliden Tara Mines
	Poland	1. Black Gold, Tauron Wydobycie S.A Tauron Wydobycie S.A.
		2. Bytom, Weglokoks Kraj Weglokoks Kraj
		3. Scorpions Team Katowice Katowicki Holding Weglowy Spółka Akcyjna KWK „Murcki – Staszic”
		4. Gray Wolfs JSW S.A.
		5. White Eagles KGHM Poland
	Russia	1. EMERCOM of Russia Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies
		2. JSC «SUEK» Joint-Stock Company «Siberian Coal Energy Company» (SUEK)
	Ukraine	1. State Militarized Mine Rescue Squad Public Service of Ukraine
	United States	1. MSHA Mine Emergency Unit No. 1 Mine Safety & Health Administration
	Vietnam	1. Vinacomin Team Vinacomin Mines Rescue of Vietnam
Canada		
		1. Western Canada Mine Rescue 2015 winner - Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp.
		2. Maritime Mine Rescue 2016 winner
		3. Quebec Mine Rescue 2016 Provincial winner
		4. Ontario Mine Rescue 2016 Provincial winner
Waiting List for IMRC 2016 - Canada		
Canada		
	Non-Ontario	1. Cameco McArthur River, Sask. Cameco
		2. Vale Manitoba Operations Vale
	Ontario	3. Vale West Mines, Sudbury Vale
		4. Glencore - Sudbury INO Glencore
		5. Goderich Mine Compass Minerals
		6. Young-Davidson Mine Alamos Gold
		7. Sudbury Basin Cobres KGHM Sudbury Operations

Welcome to Taylor Substation

Ontario’s newest mine rescue substation at the province’s newest commercial mining operation – Kirkland Lake Gold’s Taylor Mine, near Matheson – is open for business.

“A lot of people are impressed with it,” says the mine’s senior geologist Alex Thompson, who took on the task of turning an approximately 60 by 15 foot, well-used ATCO trailer into a fully operational and equipped substation.

“It’s compact but the layout works well.”

Plans called for a substation to become operational at the mine about the same time that Taylor shifted from the development stage into commercial production, says Thompson, who transferred to Taylor from St. Andrew Goldfields’ (now Kirkland Lake Gold) Holt-Holloway operations in August 2014.

“2015 was a ramping up year for Taylor,” says Thompson, a four-year mine rescue

volunteer and captain of the company’s 2015 competition team. Of the dozen St. Andrew employees there early last year, he was the only active mine rescue volunteer.

“It was just a couple of Dumas employees and I who were active during that time.” Dumas Mining was contracted to develop the site, with St. Andrew’s own workforce slated to take over in September 2015.

See “TRAINING” Page 3

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



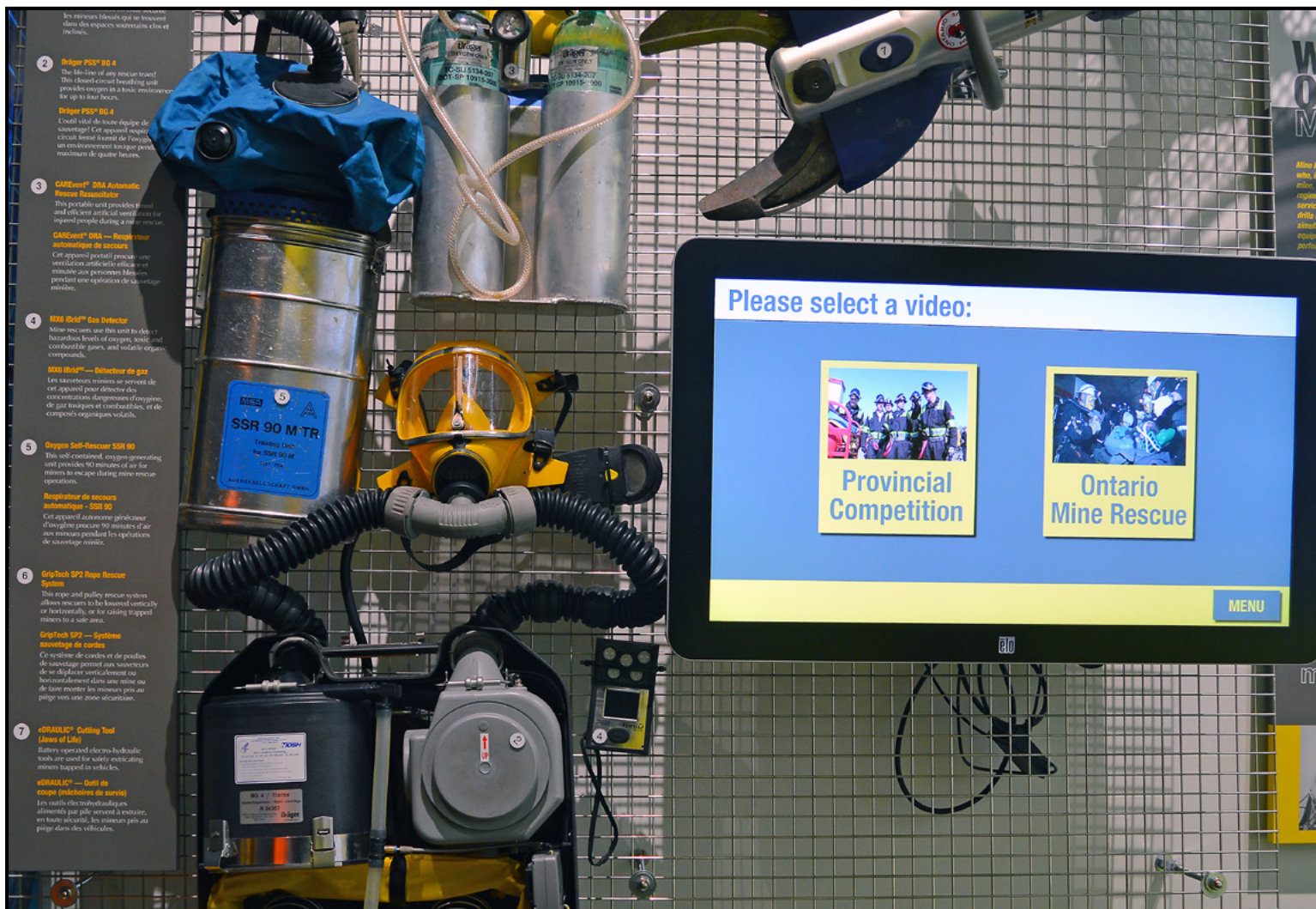
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Dynamic display

Please touch! An assortment of Ontario Mine Rescue equipment – BG4 breathing apparatus, SSR90, CAREvent, eDraulic splitter, iBRID MX6 gas monitor, GripTech Rope Rescue System and more – is currently on display at Sudbury’s Dynamic Earth (Science North).

More international teams to come

Continued from Page 1

Several countries have been in contact, and at least one plans to enter multiple teams, he says.

“In terms of team registration, we’re way ahead of previous (international) competitions,” Gryska says.

Seven of the 13 countries that attended the last IMRC in Poland, have yet to register and most have been in contact. Organizers are anticipating the largest international competition to date.

Whether there will be room for Canadian and Ontario teams that are on the waiting list remains to be seen, Gryska says.

The safest, though not necessarily the easiest, way for an Ontario team to secure an entry into the international competition, is to win the provincial competition, says Ted Hanley, Ontario Mine Rescue General Manager.

An alternate route for Ontario mine rescuers to be involved in the international

competition is to participate as judges or as volunteers.

Though IMRC 2016 will be the first international competition with international judging, the majority of judges will be from Ontario. Approximately two-thirds of the more than 80 applicants to be judges are from Ontario, most are current volunteers.

For non-participants, all three levels of competition – district, provincial and international – are open to the public.

This year’s provincial competition will be held at NORCAT’s Underground Centre, the former Fecunis Mine, in Onaping, northwest of Sudbury. As in recent competitions, the underground activities will be streamed to viewers on surface.

Spectators will also be able to view the IMRC 2016’s underground emergency scenario at Vale’s 114 Orebody near Copper Cliff Mine on video, a first for an international competition.

The remaining venues for the first aid, firefighting, high angle rope rescue, and technician events have not yet been announced, but will also be open to the public.



Competition Calendar

May 11, 12, 13

District Competitions

Southern District -
Goderich Memorial Arena, Goderich

Sudbury & Onaping districts -
Jim Coady Memorial Arena, Levack

Thunder Bay/Algoma & Red Lake districts -
Delaney Arena, Thunder Bay

Timmins & Kirkland Lake districts -
Archie Dillon Sportsplex, Timmins

June 9, 10

Provincial Competition

NORCAT Underground Centre,
Sudbury

August 19-26

International Mines Rescue Competition

Sudbury

(See www.IMRC2016.ca for details)

Training underway at new substation

Continued from Page 1

When talk turned to establishing a substation last June, “I took it upon myself to get things rolling,” he says. “It was a bit of an undertaking, but I had a lot of support from our management and Ontario Mine Rescue.”

While many established mines have dedicated space in a permanent structure for a mine rescue substation, “we were not at the stage where new infrastructure was planned,” he says, “so it was a case of using what we had on hand on site.” That was the ATCO trailer.

“I incorporated the important elements from the various substations I have seen,” says Thompson, whose task began with designing the facility. Assistance provided by Shawn Rideout, the Chief Mine Rescue Officer, and Danny Taillefer, the Timmins District Mine Rescue Officer, was invaluable, he says. They provided additional examples and pictures of how substations were set up elsewhere, and ideas to better use the limited area.

“It’s a fairly small space, so we needed to optimize storage and use.”

Once Thompson completed the design, renovating the trailer took about three weeks and was completed by the site carpenter. The old flooring was stripped out, as was the wood paneling on the walls. Electrical and communications lines were rewired; laminate flooring was installed, as were the myriad of storage, sinks and other features required for equipment and supplies.

Stocking the substation, however, took substantially longer. Rideout and Taillefer provided lists not only of required mine rescue equipment, but of tools required to service the mine rescue equipment, and of additional equipment that would prove helpful.

Though help will not be far away once mutual aid agreements are in place – Taylor is about 25 kilometres from Primero Mining’s Black Fox Mine, and 50 kilometres from Goldcorp Inc.’s Hoyle Pond, based on the response time of the district Mine Rescue Officer, the new substation had to be equipped with 11 BG4s.

“There were ordering and procurement processes, as well as time and budgetary constraints,” says Thompson, noting the process took several months.

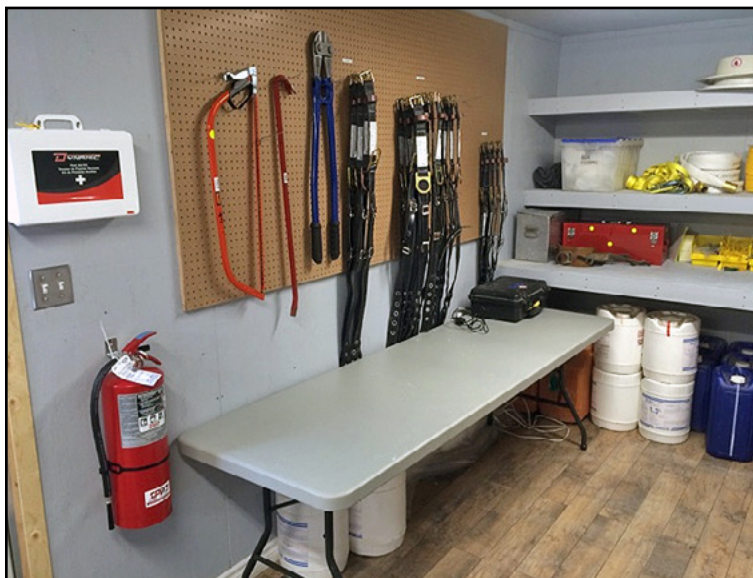
“It was a little bit time consuming on that part of things, but we got it done on time.”

Taylor now has about 80 workers, including about a dozen who have recently been mine rescue trained. A regular training session at Taylor for all Timmins mine rescue volunteers began in earnest in early February, as did an informal evaluation of the substation.

Reaction has been positive so far, but “we know there are some things that will need to be addressed or worked on,” Thompson says. Portal access, for example, is one consideration, because the entrance is roughly one kilometre by road from the substation.

“We are working toward a dedicated transportation solution for moving teams to and from the substation,” he says, and other concerns may be identified as the mine conducts test runs of its mine rescue response plan.

As with all emergency response preparation, he says, “it’s a work in progress, but will ultimately ensure the quickest and safest response to virtually any mine emergency.”



Alex Thompson



LOUD AND CLEAR? – Acting Captain Pete Kohnert presses the transmit button to update the briefing officer on team status during a recent training session at Compass Minerals' Goderich Mine.

Volunteers evaluate durability, performance

New Draeger products put to mine rescue test

Mine rescue volunteers in Southern and Kirkland Lake districts gave two Draeger FPS 7000 facemask units with FPS COM communication module attachments a thorough product evaluation – smoke; foam; salt; heat; humidity . . . and the substation sink.

At first volunteers are reluctant to put the entire unit in soapy water to disinfect them, said Dan Rulli, Southern District's Mine Rescue Officer, but they have been washed and heat-dried several times, as well as covered in firefighting foam, and should see much rougher conditions and treatment before the evaluation period is ended.

Draeger says the facemask and the communications module, which includes a diaphragm and amplifier, is submersible in water, has a wide field of vision, and does not fog. The facemask, though relatively new to mine rescue, is already in use with fire departments.

"It definitely felt easier breathing," and communications with the team was easier, said Pete Kohnert, a 20-year veteran mine rescue volunteer at Compass Minerals' Goderich Mine, following a training session with the units.

"It should be really helpful in smoke and noisy conditions," Kohnert said.

Voices seemed clearer and more audible with the unit, and visibility with the facemask was also better, said mine rescuer Matt Drennan. The fit and weight is slightly different from the Panorama Nova mask currently used, he said, and will require some time to get used to.

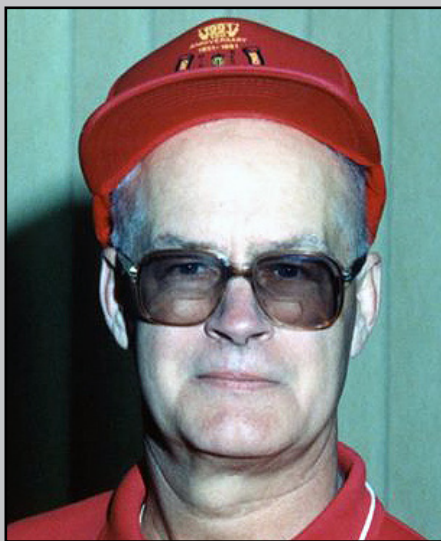
Kohnert, acting as captain, and Drennan, acting as vice-captain, each wore a FPS 7000 with the communication module for several hours during an underground exercise as their team travelled by foot and vehicle in the cavernous salt mine to spray foam from the compressed air foam system on a "fuel spill."

See "NEW" Page 5



The facemask and communication module can be immersed in water, above, and heat dried, below.





John Guthrie

OMR loses former MRO, mentor, friend

Ontario Mine Rescue recently lost former Mine Rescue Officer and friend John Guthrie.

Guthrie received his Basic/Standard Mine Rescue Training in March 1960 while working at Garson Mine in Sudbury, and served as a volunteer for the next eight years.

Hired by Senior Mine Rescue Officer George McPhail, he called his decision to join OMR as “the best move I ever made.” Throughout his life he was proud of his role with Ontario Mine Rescue, the organization’s reputation, and its volunteers.

“We’re the best in the world,” he would say, and “I’m pretty proud of that.”

In February 1968, Guthrie became the Onaping District Mine Rescue Superintendent (Officer), a position he held until becoming the Provincial Technician in 1989. He remained stationed in Onaping throughout his career, and lived there after retiring.

Guthrie, who was a mentor to the generation of Mine Rescue Officers who followed him, played an instrumental role in OMR’s shift from fire response to emergency response.

Following the 1984 Falconbridge Mine rockburst, he was directed by Senior Mine Rescue Office Ron Eveson to research, find and purchase emergency response equipment, including lifting bags, hydraulic splitter, rocksplitter and more.

Guthrie retired from Ontario Mine Rescue in 1994, and continued to help the program during his retirement.

For more photos see our [Facebook post](#).



New home for Sudbury station

Workplace Safety North’s Ontario Mine Rescue Sudbury headquarters and mine rescue station will move this fall from Notre Dame Avenue to a larger facility off Regent Street, at the intersection of Cedar Street and Red Cross Boulevard in downtown Sudbury. Formerly the site of Canadian Blood Services, the two-storey plus finished basement building offers WSN and OMR additional training and office space. Access is available from Regent and Brady streets.

New features improve team communication

Continued from Page 4

The communications module features a mechanical speech diaphragm and a voice amplifier with speakers on the left and right side of the mask, as well as an earpiece and hardwire link to a handheld radio.

Rulli told the volunteers that the units will not improve a mine’s leaky feeder radio system – dead areas will still be dead areas – but should improve the ability of the captain and vice-captain to communicate to the team, as well as their ability to hear radio communications from the briefing officer.

“I wanted to experiment, but didn’t have much time,” said Drennan, who nonetheless gave the unit a thumbs up based on his brief appraisal time.

Kohnert agreed. “I think it’s a good idea. It certainly serves a purpose.”

After the exercise, Drennan and Kohnert completed an evaluation form asking them

Crushing software, hardware bugs

Facemasks and communication modules are not the only equipment mine rescuers are putting to the test.

During May volunteers in Sudbury and Thunder Bay/Algoma districts will try to find the bugs in a software application and several tablets, as Ontario Mine Rescue tests whether a mobile device can replace a captain’s

to describe the environmental conditions; to rate various comfort and wearability factors, such as weight and air flow; to rate different communication module functions, including volume and hardwire connections; and a series of questions on performance and practice.

Though only the captain and vice-captain in exercises wear the units, non-wearers are also asked to complete the evaluation, Rulli said, noting that not only their ability to hear communications, but their opinion on how the units could be incorporated into mine rescue practices and procedures, is important.

A report based on the evaluations will be presented to the Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee.

Southern and Kirkland Lake district TAC representatives Jim Ahrens and Dan Demers, respectively, are assisting in the project.

clipboard.

The software prepared by Focus FS, of Newfoundland and Labrador, in development since last June, will undergo beta testing on different tablets during the next month.

Mine Rescue Officers Tim Ebbinghaus and Duane Crosswell are leading the tablet project.



TIME TO REARRANGE – Glassware, belt buckles, pins, medals, and more cover shelves in Norm Begin's basement mine rescue room.

Mine rescue passion on display

Many volunteers have a prized possession or two of their time and experience in mine rescue. Some are fortunate to have more, and then there's Norm Begin.

"I've got a lot of stuff in boxes. I can't put them in my mine rescue room in the basement because I don't want it to be cluttered," says Begin, who is not sure how many items he's collected in the past 20 years, just that there's too many to display properly.

Begin, the ERT co-ordinator at Richmond Mines' Island Gold, joined Ontario Mine Rescue as a volunteer in 1987 while working at David Bell Mine, but not until he was a member of the mine's competitive team that won the Thunder Bay/Algoma District competition in 1996 did he start his collection.

The company rewarded the effort with team leather jackets and a geode rock clock. A year later when the team repeated as district champions, the mine rewarded them with gold rings featuring the mine's and Ontario Mine Rescue's logos.

"That's what got me going," says Begin, who started to collect pins and other items at the district competitions. "Anything I got, I just put away."

A hundred plus pins, 32 flame lamps, hundreds of plates and trophies, hard hats, breathing apparatus, certificates, mugs, glasses, posters, pictures, mine rescue books – "some from before I was born" – and more are on display or stored in his home.

Begin doesn't barter for items. He's collected most items on his own, though some have been gifts to him. He has been known to gift items, usually duplicates, to close teammates and friends who share his connection and affection for mine rescue.

A few flame lamps were purchased on eBay, he admits.



ABOVE – A small selection of the more than 30 flame lamps in Norm Begin's collection fills a small display cabinet.

BELOW – Norm Begin's own awards from more than 20 years as a mine rescue volunteer are a small part of his display.



"I wanted some lamps that came from England and Europe. They were one of a kind." He also "bought a silver bar, and a

Peru bank note with the image of a miner wearing a hard hat."

See "FAVOURITE" Page 7

Mine Rescue Officers – a life of training

If the job of a Mine Rescue Officer (MRO) at times seems like a never-ending circle of training – training mine rescue volunteers and being trained themselves, that’s because it’s true.

The MROs recently took a break from training volunteers to gather in Sudbury for policy and planning meetings, as well as a 40-hour advanced first aid course. They will now face a recurring annual training and certification regime under Ontario Mine Rescue’s Instruction Quality Management Plan, says General Manager Ted Hanley.

The plan will be under the direction of Chief Mine Rescue Officer Shawn Rideout, and ensures not only that all MROs are certified to the same standard, but that they received the maintenance training necessary to provide quality instruction to volunteers, says Hanley.

Though MROs do not certify Ontario Mine Rescue volunteers in first aid, officers are trained to the instructor level to assess and assist volunteers in first aid as part of their regular mine rescue training.

Under the plan, officers will have a minimum of three training and certification windows each year – typically in February, in June the week before the Provincial Competition, and in September, says Hanley. The complete suite of required training will recur over a three-year period.

The training plan not only covers required maintenance training, like first aid, but training due to legislative changes, as well as the introduction of new equipment.

Last fall MROs received Working at Heights training, a recent requirement under the Occupational Health and Safety Act that served as an important link to training with the GripTech Rope Rescue System. In 2014, officers received ‘Train the Trainer’ certification in use and instruction of Hurst eDraulic extrication equipment before the new tools were



BREATH OF LIFE – Mine Rescue Officer John Hagan takes a break from performing chest compressions to try to breathe life into a mannequin.

introduced to Ontario Mine Rescue.

Ontario Mine Rescue also offers support to officers who seek to improve technical safety and rescue abilities on their personal time, including additional academic training or education in health and safety,

adult education and other topics relevant to the work.

Becoming a Mine Rescue Officer is not the end of mine rescue training, says Hanley. That responsibility merely brings the required training to a higher level.



Norm Begin’s third provincial win in 2008

Favourite items, moments

Continued from Page 6

Begin’s favourite items are connected with his favourite mine rescue competition experiences.

“My favourite moment would be the first time I won the district technician competition,” he says. “I never had anyone to train me, so I did it on my own.”

That experience and continued hard work led to Begin becoming the only technician to win the Equipment Technician Award three consecutive times,

from 2006 to 2008, at the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition.

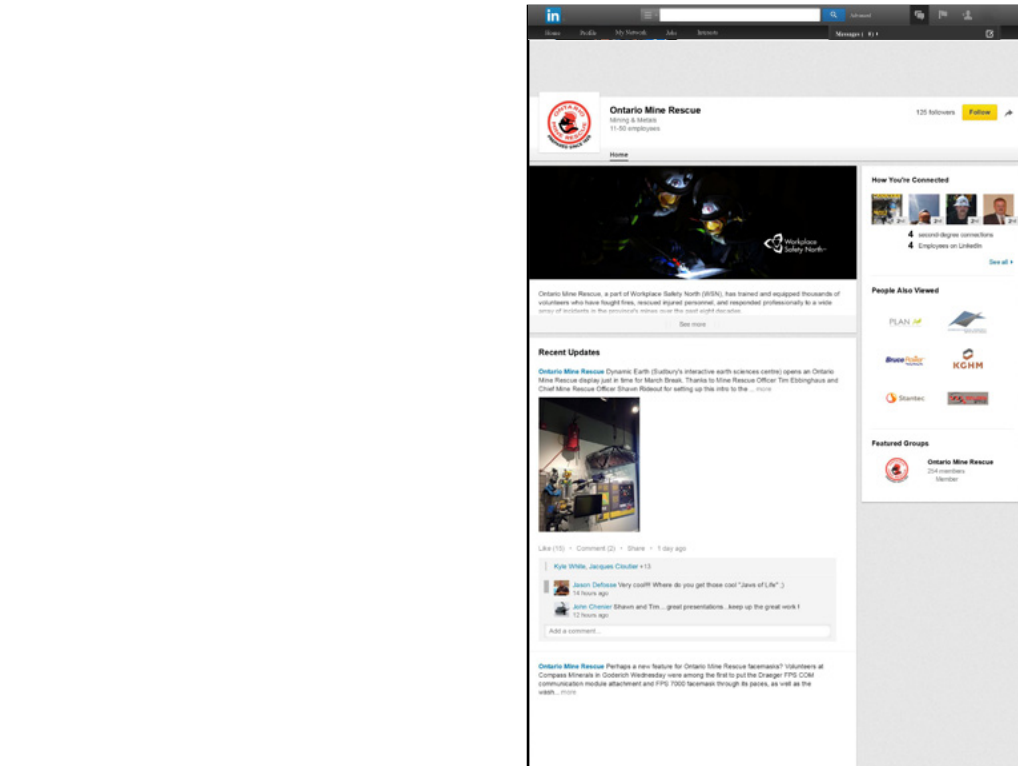
Each win came with a gold ring from Hemlo Operations. His favourite item, the third ring, came “with three diamonds to represent winning the provincial technician award three times.”

Begin’s pace of collecting items has slowed, and his “next step is to sit down and itemize what I own,” but that doesn’t mean he’s stopping.

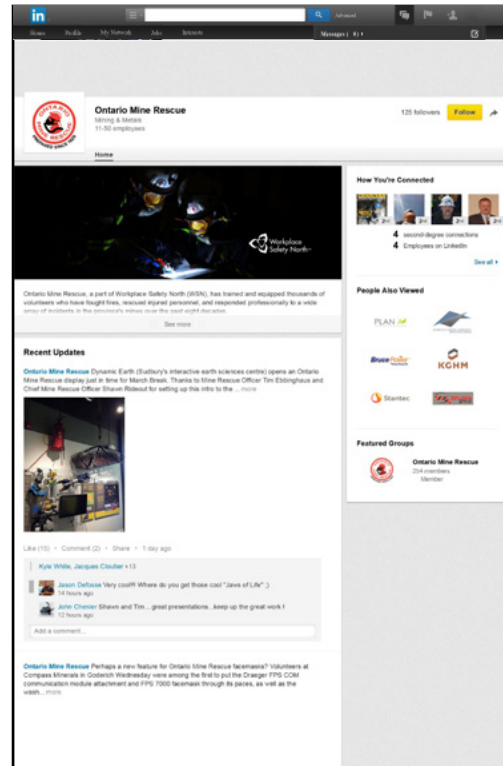
“I really don’t see any end to it.”



workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue



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linkedin.com/company/ontario-mine-rescue

Survey: Link Line lives up to its name

A survey on The Link Line and how Ontario Mine Rescue communicates, particularly with volunteers, gave generally positive results and comments, as well as helpful suggestions.

The brief survey conducted over four weeks in November and December 2015 received more than 60 responses, almost 75 per cent from active mine rescuers. Approximately five per cent of all active mine rescuers responded.

Virtually all respondents, 99 per cent, get access to The Link Line by email, either through a link or an attached PDF. A large majority, 81 per cent, read the newsletter on a computer, while of the remaining 19 per cent, slightly more read it on a tablet or smart phone than read a printed copy.

“I love the Link Line issues. I enjoy reading and learning about mine rescue. The more information the better,” says one respondent.

Readers expressed a high level of satisfaction with the newsletter’s content – OMR staff, history, volunteers, competitions, news from Ontario, technical advisory committee news, equipment changes and research, all rated in the 80 per cent range or higher in satisfaction.

SUGGESTIONS & REQUESTS

Mine rescue news from outside Ontario was the news category with the lowest satisfaction level – only 63 per cent. Increasing coverage of news from other jurisdictions was the most frequent suggestion made by respondents.

Other suggestions and requests included: stories on how training is conducted at different mine sites; different types of mine rescue equipment; new mine rescue technology and research; profiles on OMR staff and volunteers; and more.

Sixty per cent of readers are fine with Link Line’s three times a year frequency, though the remaining 40 would like the newsletter to be released four times a year.

Beginning next year The Link Line will be produced quarterly, and other minor changes – more interactive links, more photographs, added features – to the newsletter will be introduced over time.

One change, regarding past volunteers, begins this issue on Page 8. Readers are invited to help OMR identify, and if possible provide an update on former mine rescuers in old photographs.



The Link Line is the preferred source of information and news on Ontario Mine Rescue, while the Ontario Mine Rescue website – www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue – is the most common used source of mine rescue information.

OMR social media sites – Facebook and LinkedIn – are used by almost a quarter of respondents.



Who is that?

Ontario Mine Rescue has numerous photographs that are decades old, and while many identify the team, few identify individual mine rescuers. Here's Campbell Mine's mine rescue team which represented Red Lake District in the 1978 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition. If you can identify members of the team, please email kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca.

OMR welcomes new MROs

Workplace Safety North is pleased to announce Jason Leger and Shawn Shail have joined Ontario Mine Rescue as Mine Rescue Officers (MROs).

Leger will be stationed at the Timmins Mine Rescue Station and will share responsibility with Timmins MRO Danny Taillefer for oversight of all training and emergency response activities within the district.

Shail will be stationed at the Kirkland Lake Mine Rescue Station and will share responsibility with Kirkland Lake MRO Wayne Baker for oversight of all training and emergency response activities within that district. He will also deliver Ontario Mine Rescue training courses around the province as required.

Leger joins Ontario Mine Rescue from Goldcorp Ltd. Porcupine Gold Mines in Timmins, having held front line supervision



Shawn Shail



Jason Leger

roles over the past decade. He received his Introductory Mine Rescue training in 2007 while at Kidd Mine, and has served as an active mine rescue volunteer in Timmins District since. Leger holds Technician, Advanced and Management Level Mine Rescue certifications, and in 2013 was captain of the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition winning team.

Shail joins OMR from St. Andrews Goldfields Ltd. in Matheson, where he held various underground and administrative roles including Front Line Supervisor and Continuous Improvement Specialist. He received his Introductory Mine Rescue training in 2010 while at St. Andrews, and has served as an active mine rescue volunteer in Kirkland Lake District since then. Shail holds Technician and Advanced Ontario Mine Rescue certifications.

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