



Link Line



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

Issue #28 Winter 2015

Linking Mine Rescuers for 10 years

Newsletter created to connect volunteers

Ten years ago this November, Ontario Mine Rescue linked to its volunteers with the first, then unnamed, edition of this newsletter.

It officially became The Link Line in August 2006, thanks to a suggestion from former senior mine rescue officer Ron

Eveson. He explained that the link line was introduced to OMR after the East Malartic Fire in 1947 to keep teams together.

“The name was, and still is, totally appropriate,” says Alex Gryska, the head of Ontario Mine Rescue at the time. “We wanted a communications tool that would connect us, everyone in mine rescue, but especially the volunteers.”

OMR wanted to keep volunteers better informed about what was happening

in mine rescue in various parts of the province, and what changes they would encounter as mine rescuers, Gryska says.

The inaugural two-page issue introduced the MSA Thermal Imaging Camera and the CAREvent emergency resuscitator, which had been undergoing field tests. It also gave readers the opportunity to bid for a flame safety lamp, which were being replaced by the ITX gas monitor.

See “Volunteer” Page 5

Preparations underway for IMRC 2016

International Mines Rescue Competition 2016 host – Workplace Safety North’s (WSN) Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR) – is preparing to welcome the mine rescue world to Sudbury next August 19 to 26.

“This event will be a very unique opportunity for mine rescue teams from across the world to meet each other, compete, exchange knowledge and build a network of underground emergency response experts,” said Alex Gryska, secretary treasurer of the International Mines Rescue Body and former general manager of OMR.

Vale’s 114 Orebody near Copper Cliff Mine in Sudbury has been secured by the organizers, which include WSN’s OMR and the principal sponsors – Vale, Glencore, KGHM, Draeger Safety, and Goldcorp, as a major venue in the competition, the first IMRC to be held in Canada.

Teams from around the world will compete in different events during the 10th IMRC, including a simulated emergency underground scenario, firefighting, first aid and more. Teams from across Canada – winners of provincial or major regional mine rescue competitions, will also compete.

The 114 Orebody will be home to several activities in the underground



Vale West Mines rescue team demonstrates a vehicle extrication rescue during a news conference at Vale’s 114 Orebody to announce the location would serve as an underground venue for IMRC 2016.

emergency scenario. A viewing area will be built at the site with the public invited to watch teams compete underground through the use of cameras and video – a first for an IMRC, but that’s only a small step in preparing for 30 mine rescue teams from as many as 20 nations.

A website – IMRC2016.ca – has been launched and applications are being

accepted from teams that want to compete, experienced mine rescue personnel who want to be judges, and volunteers who just want to help in what is expected to be the largest international competition to date. Competition rules have also been posted, as well as additional information for teams and individuals planning to attend.

See “Sponsors” Page 4

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



Marc Leveille attacks a fire.

Answering the Call

Mine rescuers from Alamos Gold Inc.'s Young-Davidson Mine in Kirkland Lake District accepted an invitation, extended to Ontario Mine Rescue, to attend this fall's National Western Region Mine Rescue Competition in Fernie, B.C. Winners from surface and underground mine rescue competitions in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, B.C., Yukon and the Northwest Territories/Nunavut, attended the biennial event. The eight teams in the underground competition participated in five tasks – a written exam, first aid, firefighting, a rescue in smoke simulation, and a rope rescue.



Trevor Hale, Joey Roy and Captain Shawn Deforge lead the team out of smoke.



Captain Shawn Deforge and Pierre Belanger, review the ropes on a stretcher.



Captain Shawn Deforge

Cracking the books at Queens

While thousands of new and returning students enjoying Frosh Week crowded the streets of Queen's University in Kingston, a handful of mining engineering students started class early by taking the Introductory Mine Rescue Course for Students.

"I jumped at the opportunity," said Chris Zegarac, one of the few students familiar with mine rescue before attending the course. "I first got into mine rescue last year in Kirkland Lake" while on a job placement, said the student, who found the experience eye-opening.

"Safety is a big part of mining and I wanted to see the practical side of it," said Harman Khosa, echoing other students, explaining their motivation to be in class learning to disassemble and assemble a BG4 breathing apparatus rather than be outside celebrating.

The nine students, most in their fourth year, taking the course covered the same material and used the same equipment as new mine rescue volunteers taking the Introductory course, though in a slightly compressed week. They learned about the MX6 multi-gas monitor, standard equipment, mine rescue procedures and more.

They also went under oxygen and experience a smoke-filled environment, created for them at the Kingston Fire and Rescue's Fire Training Facility. They had to search a large empty room to find a missing "miner" and load the body into a stretcher.

Most found the experience of walking blind in smoke unsettling.

"It was difficult to think through getting out" of the smoke once the miner was recovered, said Erin Murphy, one of two female students in the course.

Ontario Mine Rescue has trained students for more than 30 years beginning with an arrangement with the former Haileybury School of Mines. Mine Rescue Officer Wally Adler has visited Queens annually for about 10 years to instruct students, while students from Laurentian University and Cambrian College attend courses at the Sudbury Mine Rescue Station.

The course does not count for credit to their degrees, but "I think it would look good on a resume," said student Sandy Archer.

"I think it (mine rescue) is an integral part of mining, something you don't normally hear about," said graduate student Denver Cowan, but something everyone working in the industry should be at least aware of.



TOP – 'Captain' Erin Murphy checks the facemask seal on Chris Zegarac, before beginning an activity under oxygen in a smoke-filled room.

MIDDLE – Amanda Lewis reassembles a BG4, after disassembling and cleaning the unit.

BOTTOM – Mine Rescue Officer Wally Adler gives James Procopio a quick lesson in the use of a thermal imaging camera.

IMRC

CANADA 2016

Calendar**December 31, 2015**

Deadline for Judge's Applications

IMRC 2016 Rules v2.0
to be posted on website**January 2016**Successful International & Canadian
(non-Ontario) Judges notified**February 2016**

Successful Ontario Judges notified

March 31, 2016IMRC 2016 Rules v3.0,
including scoring
to be posted on website**April 1, 2016**First application deadline
for International teams
(guaranteed entry)**April 2016**Registration, including hotel, opens
for accepted teams and judges**June 1, 2016**Final application deadline
for International
& Canadian teams**August 19, 2016**

IMRC 2016 – Canada opens

**Sponsors sought
for IMRC 2016****Continued from Page 1**

More work remains to be done. Additional sponsors are being sought and planning continues on logistics, opening and closing ceremonies, and securing other venues.

International competitions give mine rescue teams from around the world an opportunity to meet peers, improve mine rescue skills, exchange technical and organizational knowledge, and share practical experiences.

This is the first international competition in North America since 2008. Previous competitions have been held in Europe, Asia and Australia.

For more information, visit **IMRC2016**.

*The Draeger FPS-COM-PLUS***Coming soon to be tested
by mine rescue volunteers**

Mine rescuers will be sharpening their marking pencils next year preparing to evaluate two new pieces of equipment – the Draeger FPS COM communication module attachment for the FPS 7000 facemask and a tablet app that may lead to tablets replacing the captain's clipboard.

Volunteers at Kirkland Lake District's Alamos mine and Southern District's Compass Minerals mine will test the FPS 7000 facemask and communication module, which has several features including a mechanical speech diaphragm and a voice amplifier with speakers on the left and right side of the mask.

District mine rescue officers Wayne Baker and Dan Rulli will be responsible for the training evaluations, with the support of district Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee members Dan Demers from Alamos, and Jim Ahrens from Compass.

Who will test the tablet app being prepared by Focus FS, a Newfoundland and Labrador-based company, has yet to be determined, though the software is scheduled for beta testing by Ontario Mine Rescue volunteers in March.

While the FPS 7000's diaphragm and amplifier should improve the captain's ability to clearly communicate with the team, a link from the amplifier to the captain's radio will also improve communications with the briefing officer.

Draeger says the FPS 7000, despite the diaphragm and amplifier, is submersible in water, has a wide field of vision, and does not mist "due to a well thought-out air circulation". The facemask, though relatively new to mine rescue uses, is already in use with fire departments.

Jeff Brown and designers for Focus FS have been working on the project since attending the 2015 provincial competition. Research there showed the device must be rugged, water resistance and capable of being used by someone wearing gloves, he says.

The app will feature large buttons for navigation and simple command functionality; be capable of displaying all the required information concurrently; have the ability to show interactive maps on which the captain can make notes or take and attach photos to; give alerts and reminders for critical data capture; and more.

In mines that are WiFi-enabled, the tablet can be connected to the briefing officer and the control group, allowing the captain to share map notations, photos, and team details in real time.

While teams will be involved in the beta testing stage, Brown wants to have a more complete version ready for testing in the 2016 district and provincial competitions.

MASHA's



Mine Rescue

Newsletter



An update on your Ontario mine rescue program

Issue #1 November 2005

Volunteer recognition key role of Link Line

Continued from Page 1

But just as important was the need to recognize volunteers, Gryska says. Not just for winning competitions, he says, but for everything they do – serving on the Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee, years of service, and much more.

The first issue also identified members of the TAC, and announced the creation of the Distinguished Action Award for mine rescuers who save the life of another person, on or off the job.

Though the intent was for The Link Line to be issued several times a year, it wasn't until 2007 that two issues were released, while a year later the newsletter commenced its' three time a year schedule – spring, summer and winter.

The summer edition traditionally focuses on the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition in June, while stories in the spring and winter editions cover mine rescue news, volunteers and staff, changes in equipment, research and more.

The Link Line was designed as a PDF so it could be easily and quickly distributed by email, as well as printed for posting on bulletin boards or as a handout. This ensured it was distributed to as wide a network of mine rescuers as possible.

This has not only helped the newsletter become a success within Ontario, says Gryska, but has helped earned it, and OMR, an international following.

While the initial editions were rather brief, only two to four printed pages, The Link Line has grown to a steady six to eight pages in length.

And The Link Line is no longer the only communication link with volunteers. The website has expanded, including regular stories on the home page, links to photo albums from provincial mine rescue competitions, mine rescue videos, and links to news reports on Ontario Mine Rescue.

As well, all past issues of The Link Line are available online at – www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue.

Ontario Mine Rescue is also now on social media, and can be found at:

- www.facebook.com/OntarioMineRescue
- www.linkedin.com/groups/4665967

You name it!

Welcome to the first issue of a new publication aimed at keeping mine rescue volunteers and others across Ontario in touch with the program. This newsletter will include updates on equipment, programs, personnel and incidents. But a newsletter needs a name. Any ideas? Enter our contest to name the newsletter and win a prize. Just email your suggestion to susanaldane@masha.on.ca. Stay tuned!

Do I hear \$150?

Flame safety lamps were used in mine rescue in Ontario for more than 75 years. Now they've been replaced by the ITX monitors which offer more accurate measurement of a greater range of gases. Mine rescue volunteers, retirees and others from the industry have the chance to own a little piece of mine rescue history by bidding in the flame safety lamp auction. The auction is online at MASHA's web site, www.masha.on.ca. The bidding on each separate lamp starts at \$120. The auction closes December 31, so get your bid in now!

Committee keeps a finger on MR pulse

The Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee is made up of volunteers from across Ontario with experience as crew members and coordinators. The committee meets regularly to discuss issues and make recommendations to MASHA on ways to improve the program. The committee's role includes:

- Providing advice and recommendations on the content of mine rescue training programs;
- Providing advice and making recommendations regarding mine rescue emergency equipment requirements;
- Identifying and recommending research projects; and
- Recommending changes to the mine rescue handbook.

Current projects include a mine rescue code of practice and advanced certification program, as well as overseeing virtual reality research (see story and list of TAC members at left).

Virtual reality gives control groups a clearer picture

A research project now underway in Sudbury may improve mine rescue responses by helping control groups "see" what's happening with the crew underground.

Virtual reality is an interactive, computer-based, multimedia environment in which the user becomes a participant with the computer in a 'virtually real' world. The research institute Mirarco, working with MASHA and the mine rescue technical advisory committee, is looking into virtual reality as a decision-making tool to help control groups during an emergency.

The research project uses three-dimensional computer images to generate a realistic picture of the emergency underground. The first step is to use the models to train control groups. But eventually it may be possible for mines to program their own underground structure, giving control groups a bird's eye view of where crews are and what they're likely to encounter as they respond to an emergency.

The research project is funded by the Research Advisory Council of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

TAC launches new award

There are many occasions when a mine rescue team member goes beyond his duty to help others, on and off the job. Now a new award, established by the mine rescue technical advisory committee, will recognize those individuals. The Distinguished Action award will honour active team members who have saved the life of another person. Awards will be presented at the annual banquet. Nominations must be made by a mine rescue officer, and must be supported by documentation of the rescue. The TAC will approve awards before they are presented. If you know of someone who may be deserving of an award, please speak to your mine rescue officer.

Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee members

Charlie Burton	MASHA/Mine Rescue
Jean Chenier	Falconbridge
Mike Dudar	Inco (USWA)
Alex Gryska	MASHA/Mine Rescue
Bruce Hall	MASHA/Mine Rescue
John Leclair	Inco
Brad Liddell	Goldcorp Inc.
Robert McLean	Moran Mining
Jamie Mortonson	Porcupine Joint Venture
Doug Osborne	Windsor Salt
Scotty Robertson	Ministry of Labour
Gilbert Wahl	River Gold Mines
Joe Wojtus	Newmont Holloway Mine

We need you!

If you have comments about the newsletter, or suggestions for future articles, please contact Susan Haldane at MASHA, (705) 474-7233 ext. 261, or susanaldane@masha.on.ca



Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association

P.O. Box 2050, Stn. Main
690 McKeown Ave.
North Bay, Ont. P1B 9P1
PH: (705) 474-7233
FAX: (705) 472-5800
www.masha.on.ca

Tell us what you think

Do you read The Link Line on a screen or on paper? Do you 'like' Ontario Mine Rescue on Facebook? Would you 'link' to OMR on LinkedIn? Is OMR too social or not social enough?

Ontario Mine Rescue would like to know what you think about how we communicate with you.

Please take a few minutes to visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/JP226TH to complete a survey.



Do you 'like' OMR on Facebook?

Thank you for your service



Tim Taylor – Mine Rescue Officer – 1988-2015



Bruce Hall – Mine Rescue Officer – 1989-2015



Charlie Burton – Mine Rescue Program Supervisor – 1984-2015



Alex Gryska – General Manager, Ontario Mine Rescue – 2001-2015



Say 'Hello'

Penny Pagan, Ontario Mine Rescue executive assistant, and Tim Ebbinghaus, Sudbury District mine rescue officer, welcomed visitors to the Ontario Mine Rescue display at the North America Mining Expo earlier this year in Sudbury.

OMR welcomes new MROs

Mike Krell and Dan Rulli are Ontario Mine Rescue's newest mine rescue officers.

Krell is based at the Algoma Mine Rescue Station in the Thunder Bay/Algoma District, and Dan Rulli is based at the Delaware Mine Rescue Station in Southern District.

Krell joins Ontario Mine Rescue, a part of Workplace Safety North, from Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd Eagle River Mine outside of Wawa. He received his Introductory Mine Rescue training in 2009 while at Wesdome, and has served as an active mine rescue volunteer in the Thunder Bay/Algoma District since that time.

Krell holds both Technician and Advanced Mine Rescue certifications, and received his certification as a firefighter from Lambton College in 2000. A resident



Mike Krell



Dan Rulli

of Wawa, Mike served as a member of the Wawa volunteer fire department, in addition to his duties as captain of the Wesdome Eagle River Mine Rescue Team.

Rulli joins OMR from the Canadian Gypsum Corporation Hagersville Mine (CGC Inc. a part of USG). He received his Introductory Mine Rescue training in 2004 while at CGC, and has served as an active mine rescue volunteer in the Southern District since.

Rulli holds both Technician and Advanced Mine Rescue certifications, and most recently won the 2015 Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Technician Competition in Thunder Bay. A resident of southern Ontario, Rulli brings with him extensive experience in soft rock mining operations unique to that corner of the province.

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
shawnrideout@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Emergency Services Specialist

Shawn Kirwan ext. 322
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
Mike Krell
michaekrell@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
Dan Rulli
danrulli@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Sudbury Station 705-670-5707
Tim Ebbinghaus ext. 316
timebbinghaus@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Thunder Bay Station 807-344-8211
Duane Crosswell
duanecrosswell@workplacesafetynorth.ca

Timmins Station 705-235-4861
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