



# Link Line



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

Issue #30 Summer 2016

## Soft rock miners prove mettle Compass Minerals, Barrick's Leclair claim titles

Coming from a salt mine, mine rescuers from Compass Minerals Goderich Mine may not be accustomed to hard rock mining, but they clearly demonstrated their mettle winning the 2016 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition.

The Compass Minerals mine rescue team earned the celebrated gold hard hats in taking their skills and knowledge developed in cavernous drifts with 40-ft backs to the more restricted confines of the NORCAT Underground Centre in Levack, near Sudbury.

The team consisted of: Captain Jim Ahrens, Briefing Officer Drew Anderson, Matt VandenHeuvel, Chris Lammerant, Jack Miller, Aaron Duckworth, Dennis Hogan, and Joel Paquette. The team also won the First Aid Award and guaranteed admission the International Mines Rescue Competition this summer in Sudbury.

For more on the international competition, see [IMRC2016.ca](http://IMRC2016.ca).

Barrick Gold, Hemlo Operations' Jason Leclair, winner of the Thunder Bay/Algoma District Competition, won the

provincial technician competition. Leclair had placed second last year. Compass Minerals' technician Drew Dalglish finished second, and Brian Melis of KGHM, finished third.

In the competition scenario, teams on site at NORCAT to test a new emergency warning system were assigned to find miners who did not respond to the test. The situation was upgraded to an emergency when a miner detonated an explosion, spreading gases through the mine.

See "TRAUMA" Page 6

### 2016 Provincial Winners

#### Overall Winners

- 1st – Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine
- 2nd – Lake Shore Gold, Tahoe Resources

#### Technician Award

- 1st – Jason Leclair, Barrick Gold, Hemlo Operations
- 2nd – Drew Dalglish, Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine
- 3rd – Brian Melis, KGHM Sudbury

#### Firefighting Team Award

Vale, Sudbury West Mines

#### First Aid Team Award

Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine

#### Special Equipment Award

Glencore, Sudbury INO



**COMPASS MINERALS GODERICH MINE** – Back row: Vice-captain Matt VandenHeuvel, #2 Chris Lammerant, Captain Jim Ahrens, Briefing Officer Drew Anderson, Equipment Technician Drew Dalglish. Front row: #4 Aaron Duckworth, #3 Dennis Hogan, #7 Joel Paquette, #6 Jack Miller.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca)

# 2016 AWARD WINNERS



**First Overall**

**Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine**



**Second Overall**

**Lake Shore Gold, Tahoe Resources**



**Technician Award  
1st – Jason Leclair**

**Barrick Gold, Hemlo Operations**



**Technician Award  
2nd – Drew Dagleish**

**Compass Mineral, Goderich Mine**



**Technician Award  
3rd – Brian Melis**

**KGHM Sudbury**



**Firefighting Award**

**Vale, Sudbury West Mines**



**First Aid Award**

**Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine**

Platinum Sponsors



**John Vergunst Award (Special Equipment)  
Sudbury INO, A Glencore Company**

# Competition Gallery



For the full 2016 Provincial Competition Album, visit our website – [www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue)

# A history told through trophies

They do not speak, but the trophies earned by Ontario Mine Rescue teams in provincial and district competitions do tell stories. With more than a dozen major provincial and district awards, the story of who won them and when is inscribed on the name plates; but the trophies also tell of changes in mine rescue equipment, of mines opening, closing and changing ownership, and of Ontario's mining history.



The **M.S.A. Trophy**, donated by MSA Canada Ltd., has been awarded to the top team in the annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition since 1955. A cut and polished granitoid slab with plaque rests above a silver, trapezoidal engraved scene of a linked six-man mine rescue team wearing McCaa breathing apparatus. The team is traversing a double-tracked drift, as the lead rescuer holds a Wolf flame safety lamp, while the second holds a self-rescuer. The trophy originally consisted only of the slab and the first tier with the engraving. The bottom three tiers were added.

The **Special Equipment Award**, donated by Draeger Canada Ltd. has been awarded to the top team using designated equipment in the annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition since 1991, though the event was added in 1989. The original award featured a mine rescuer wearing a BG174 with the facemask hanging from his neck. It was on a wood pedestal. A newer award, donated by Draeger Safety in 2004, features a mine rescuer wearing the facemask on his face. Some mine rescuers



believe the award is cursed, with winners destined not to win the M.S.A. Trophy. However, six Special Equipment Award winners went on to win the provincial, most recently in 2009.

The **Firefighting Championship Award**, donated by Levitt Safety Ltd. and Northern Lights Technologies, has been awarded to the top team in the firefighting activity in the annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition since 2004. The award features a black hose nozzle on top of a three-tiered oak pedestal.



The **First Aid Award**, donated by Acklands Grainger, has been awarded to the top team in the first aid event at the annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition since 2004. It features a large silver bowl atop a multi-tier pedestal.



The **Equipment Technician Award**, donated by Superior Safety, has been awarded to the top technician in the annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition since 1986. The award features an unattached flame safety lamp that sits on the top tier. It is flanked by a model of Victory, and a mine rescuer wearing a BG174 and carrying a flame safety lamp.



The **Kirkland Lake-Cobalt District Award**, donated by Safety Supply Ltd., features a silver ore sample from Siscoe Mine on the top tier. The ore had once been used as a door stop. The second tier has a solid silver plaque with a jackleg miner in bas relief, and is flanked by two mine rescuers wearing BG174s. The trophy was first awarded in 1957 to the winner of the Cobalt-Gowganda District competition. The Cobalt-Gowganda and Kirkland Lake competitions merged in 1971, and the award is now presented to the Kirkland Lake District competition winner.



Please see 'FALCONS' on Page 5

# Falcons, ore, doorstops and carvers

Continued from Page 4



The current **Onaping District Mine Rescue Award**, first presented in the 1960s, originally featured a large falcon representing the Falconbridge mines in the district. Sculpted from granite, the trophy included a large nickel sample on a solid granite base. The award was redesigned in 2008 to feature a flame safety lamp, two mine rescuers of solid nickel wearing BG4s, one holding what appears to be a thermal imaging camera. The granite falcon is now on display at Nickel Rim, Glencore - Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations.



The **Red Lake District Mine Rescue Award**, donated by Safety Supply Co., features gold, iron and zinc ore and a flame safety lamp on the top tier, and flanked on each side by a mine rescuer wearing a BG174 and holding a flame safety lamp. The award was first presented in 1977, replacing a plaque.



The **Southern Ontario District Trophy**, first awarded in 1981, was handmade in the shop of Jack Wallgren a Sudbury mine rescue officer who delivered training in the Southern District when district competitions began. Made of oak and constructed in the shape of a mine headframe, it has a gold Draegerman in each corner wearing a BG174, and holding a flame safety lamp.



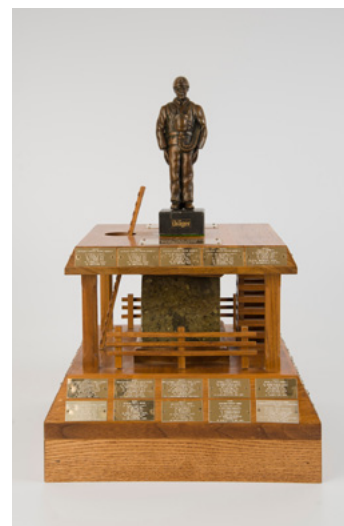
The **McCreedy Trophy** was donated by INCO Ltd. to recognize the top mine rescue team in Sudbury District No. 1. Designed and carved by Sudbury artist Charles Paxy, who worked at INCO's Creighton Mine, the award is named after John

McCreedy, a former INCO safety engineer who worked his way up to become INCO's vice-chairman. McCreedy, as INCO manager of mines, made the first presentation in 1965. The award depicts four mine rescuers wearing BG174s placing a casualty into a stretcher basket.

The **Percy C. Smith Memorial Trophy** is awarded to the top mine rescue team in Porcupine (now Timmins) District. The original shield award, presented for about 30 years, was replaced by the current trophy designed by Timmins artist and Kidd Creek miner Pete Roy in 1991. It features a mine rescuer wearing a BG174 and holding a flame lamp, towering above a headframe and an open pit. Percy Smith was one of the first mine rescue officers to be hired following the East Malartic Fire. He later became the first Senior Mine Rescue Officer.



The original **Thunder Bay Mine Rescue Competition Award**, a plaque with the relief of a mine rescuer wearing a McCaa breathing apparatus, was named after Joseph Errington, a mine rescuer at Geraldton and Steep Rock mines. From 1968 to 1992, the plaque was replaced by a large three-tiered award, featuring a mine rescuer wearing a BG174 atop a large ore sample. The current award donated by Draeger features a mine rescuer wearing a BG174 standing in a raised excavation over an ore sample. It includes name plates for all previous winners. Thunder Bay and Elliot Lake-Algoma districts were merged to form Thunder Bay/Algoma District in 1998.



For more on these trophies and other trophies, including a list of winners, visit the competition page at [www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue).

# Trauma and drama challenge rescuers

Continued from Page 1

Once under oxygen, the teams resumed the search for two missing miners, discovering one with his arm entrapped and partly severed in a ventilation fan, and his partner suffering from emotional trauma and shock. The casualties were treated and taken to surface one at a time.

Adding realism to the scenario was Bill Whelan, a former Timmins miner who suffered the traumatic amputation of his right arm in a 1999 incident. Whelan, who uses his experience to promote workplace safety, volunteered as the entrapped miner who loses his right arm.

After sending the casualties to hospital, the teams investigated the blast area to find and extinguish a fire fueled by improperly stored materials. That completed the underground scenario but not the competition.

Breathing easier on the ride to the Onaping Mine Rescue Station to clean their equipment, teams encountered a street theatre conflict between the drivers of a frontend loader and a pickup at a traffic stop.

The conflict ended with smashed vehicles trapping the pickup driver, and the mine rescuers using edraulic extrication equipment to rescue him.

Lake Shore Gold, Tahoe Resources, earned runner-up honours in their first appearance at a provincial competition. Vale West Mines won the Firefighting Award.

Glencore's Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations won the John Vergunst Award, formerly the Special Equipment Award. A new trophy for the category was dedicated to the former Ministry of Labour inspector and life-long mine rescue supporter.

In the closing banquet, two mine rescue volunteers: Dick Shoemaker and Calvin Martin, both from Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine were honoured for 30 years of service to Ontario Mine Rescue.

See "DIFFERENT" Page 7



**NEW TEAM ON THE BLOCK** – The Laurentian University Mine Rescue team successfully completed their first competition in May. Back row: Alex Dobrogost, Alex Mulloy, Mark Gilmour, Greg Moser. Front row: James Wilson, Baileigh Sirman, Julien Lalande.

## District competition students' final evaluation

For most university students, May signals the end of final exams. This year, however, the students from Laurentian University Mine Rescue (LUMR) had one more test to complete – Ontario Mine Rescue's Sudbury and Onaping Districts' competition.

"In the last three weeks after exams, we immediately went hard into training scenarios," said Greg Moser, a third-year mining engineering student and president of LUMR.

"Our mentor, Ontario Mine Rescue Officer Tim Ebbinghaus, took us through four scenarios at a local mine. We were very fortunate to have Ontario Mine Rescue help us prepare for this competition."

The team performed well, receiving praise for their demonstration performance against the competition teams from Vale, Sudbury INO, and KGHM at the Jim Coady Memorial Arena in Levack.

The most challenging part of the competition, Moser said, was using the foam-generating machine to smother an equipment fire.

"This was our first time using a foam generator, so we had to dig deep," said Moser. "Our captain did well today, we are



very proud of him."

LUMR is the first university mine rescue team in Ontario, and the second team in Canada. They are the only university mine rescue team to compete in an Ontario Mine Rescue district competition.

"I became involved with LUMR because it teaches students coming out of school what to do in an underground emergency," said Moser. "Underground emergencies are high risk because you are confined to that space. This is potentially lifesaving knowledge that we will carry into the workplace with us."

"It's important for us to compete and get our name out there so more students want to get involved," said Moser. "We hope to attend the district competition next year, and bring two teams from Laurentian University."

# Physical demand of work focus of research project

Competitors at the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition stepped up to advance mine rescue research. The research project, conducted by The Centre for Research in Occupational Safety and Health (CROSH), will evaluate the physical demands of mine rescue activities.

“The idea of this research came to light after the Ministry of Labour released the Mining Health, Safety and Prevention Review last year,” said Ayden Robertson, a PhD student in Human Kinetics at Laurentian University. “There were two recommendations regarding the physical demands and acclimation to heat stress in the report.”

This research may help Workplace Safety North revise guidelines for fitness of crew members, critical incident stress management and acclimatization of emergency responders, as recommended by the Ministry of Labour.

“A few minutes before the competition began, we met with participants to fit them with a chest device, and again afterwards to conduct a survey of their experience,” said Justin Konrad, a Masters student in Human Kinetics at Laurentian. “The chest device allows us to monitor variables like heart rate, breathing rate, and speed of movement.”

“By having competitors wear monitors that measure their responses in various conditions, we can develop training programs to better prepare mine rescuers for the physical demands of the job,” said Robertson.

“It will be interesting to find out what my heart rate is, and whether I’m as fit as I think I am,” said Jim Ahrens, captain of Compass Minerals mine rescue team, which won the competition. “Mine



**TRY IT ON FOR SIZE** – Justin Konrad, a Human Kinetics student at Laurentian University, holds a chest monitor worn by mine rescue volunteers during the Provincial Mine Rescue Competition.

rescue is a labourious task — when we go underground it’s sometimes two hours of hard labour. It’s important to be physically fit so you can do that when you’re needed in an emergency.”

The CROSH research team plans to apply their research on a global scale at the International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) in August, where the study will include the use of innovative thermometer pills.

“We are hoping to use core temperature capsules for the international competition in August,” Robertson said. “The capsules are ingested by participants, and paired with the chest devices to give us a core body temperature which relates back to the acclimation to heat stress work we are trying to do.”

## New MRO joins mine rescue

Workplace Safety North is pleased to announce that Neil Thompson has joined Ontario Mine Rescue as a Mine Rescue Officer.

Thompson will assume responsibility for training and emergency response activities within Onaping District following a transition period with current Mine Rescue Officer John Hagan, who will retire next year.

A resident of Sudbury, Thompson brings with him extensive experience in mining technical services, as well as a passion for mining education and mine rescue.

A member of winning mine rescue teams at the National Western Regional

Mine Rescue Competition and the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition (2011), he spent the past year working as a professor of Mining at Cambrian College.

Thompson received his Ontario Mine Rescue Introductory Mine Rescue training in 2004 while at Goldcorp Red Lake Gold Mines, and served as an active mine rescue volunteer in the Red Lake and Sudbury Districts following a move to Vale.



**Neil Thompson**

## Different environment extra hurdle for some

**Continued from Page 6**

The Compass Minerals’ achievement is only the third time a Southern District team has won in the 38 years the district has been represented in the provincial competition. Madawaska Mines Ltd. won in 1982, and Goderich Mine in 1990.

Mine rescuers from soft rock operations competing for the first time in the provincial event, which in recent years has been held in hard rock underground operations, face the added challenge of becoming oriented to a different mining environment.

Mine rescue teams from the rest of Ontario may face a similar sense of disorientation in the 2017 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, tentatively scheduled to be held underground at the Goderich Mine, the largest salt mine in the world.

Competing mine rescue teams represented Compass Mineral, Goderich Mine (Southern District); Goldcorp Canada, Red Lake Gold Mine (Red Lake District); North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine (Thunder Bay/Algoma District); Lake Shore Gold (Timmins District); Alamos Gold Ltd.’s Young-Davidson Mine (Kirkland Lake District); Glencore Sudbury INO, (Onaping District); and Vale Canada Ltd., West Mines (Sudbury District).

This year’s competition was co-hosted by: Vale Canada Ltd., Glencore’s Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operation, and KGHM.

The event was sponsored by: Drager Safety; Fountain Tire; NORCAT; Day Group; Northern Medical Supply; Code 4 Fire and Rescue; Lake Shore Gold; Technica Mining; Zetec; SPI Health and Safety; Dumas Contracting Ltd.; DMC Mining Services; MSA; Acklands Grainger; Levitt Safety; Honeywell; North American Palladium – Lac des Iles Mine; Vallen; Pelican Products Inc.; Rocvent Inc.; Interconcrete Ltd.; and Miller Technology.

# New wheels improve ride, safety

Mike Krell is enjoying his drive to and from work these days.

In February, the Mine Rescue Officer for Thunder Bay/Algoma District traded his mine rescue van for a new four-wheel drive mine rescue pickup, a GMC Sierra 2500HD (Heavy-Duty), with a couple hundred kilometres on the odometer.

“It’s better in every way,” Krell said.

By the end of April, he had put on more than 10,000 kilometres, much of it on gravel road, serving Wesdome’s Eagle River Mine, Richmond’s Island Gold Mine and Barrick Gold’s Hemlo Operations, from his Wawa home.

The pickup is more comfortable, handles the road better, has more power, and is quiet, Krell said. “You don’t get that constant rattling that you hear in the van.”

At times in poor weather, during the winter when mine access roads might not be plowed, and spring when runoff and rain can flood, washout and create washboard surfaces on roads, driving a two-wheel van with a high centre of gravity takes on a higher risk, he said.

“There’s a higher level of safety and confidence” in the new vehicle, said Krell, who received the second new pickup purchased by Ontario Mine Rescue. The vehicle is plated “Rescue 02”, which follows the Ontario Mine Rescue emergency vehicle fleet management protocol. Vehicles in the fleet include plates Rescue 01 to 13.



“The truck’s an eye catcher, not only among mine rescuers at mine sites, but in the town of Wawa, too,” said the officer, who admits to taking kids for emergency light-flashing rides.

The pickup, however, does not seem to have the same storage space as the van, he said, though there is sufficient room for all the required mine rescue equipment. With a slideout for the main compartment and two side compartments, more organization is required, and Krell said he has not yet determined the optimum layout.

But on his long drive to and from Wesdome – 40 km highway drive from Wawa, followed by 40 km gravel road to the mine gate, and another 20 km to the mine site, Krell just enjoys the ride.



## Evolution

*(Clockwise from top) Mine Rescue Officer Mike Krell shows off his new wheels; a previous style van, which at one point was red with a white logo; a new 1941 van; McCaa breathing apparatus line the interior of the 1941 model; Krell pulls a slideout to access the equipment in today’s vehicle; a new 1953 van; improved storage in the interior of the 1953 model.*







## 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 Noranda Geco's mine rescue team which represented Thunder Bay District in the 1986 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition. If you can identify members of the team, please email [kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca).*



## Stumped?

*Only one of the eight members of the Campbell Mine mine rescue team, which represented Red Lake District in the 1978 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, was identified by readers. Art Russell, front row second from right, was identified by former Ontario Mine Rescue general manager Alex Gryska.*

## Ontario Mine Rescue

**Head Office (Sudbury)** 705-670-5707

### President & CEO

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

### General Manager

**Ted Hanley** ext. 337  
tedhanley@workplacesafetynorth.ca

### Chief Mine Rescue Officer

**Shawn Rideout** ext. 339  
shawnrideout@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  
**Neil Thompson** ext. 334  
neilthompson@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 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



### 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.



760 Notre Dame Ave.  
Notre Dame Square  
Sudbury, ON P3A 2T4  
PH: (705) 671-6360  
FAX: (705) 670-5708  
[www.workplacesafetynorth.ca](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca)