



Link Line



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

Issue #36 Summer 2018

Tahoe Canada tops provincial . . .

Hensher top technician; Vale nabs 3 awards

Mine rescue volunteers from Tahoe Canada Timmins West and Bell Creek Mines dominated the goldware category at the 2018 Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition in Matachewan, near Kirkland Lake, taking home the gold hard hats of the provincial champions.

While Vale Canada East Mines rescue team dominated the silverware category taking home three awards – Firefighting, First Aid, and second overall, leaving the John Guthrie (Special Equipment) Award for KGHM, and the inaugural Theory Award for North American Palladium's Lac des Isle Mine.

Simone Hensher, mine rescue technician for Glencore, Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations, became the first woman to win the technician award. Last year, in her first provincial competition, Hensher was third.

The Tahoe Canada rescue team, Timmins District champions for the third consecutive year, consisted of: Capt. Adam Weagle, #2 Sylvain Falardeau, #3 Nick Schwehr, #4 Mat Johnson, Vice-capt. Pierre Gagne, #6 Rick Martin, and Briefing Officer Terry Roy.

See 'COMPETITORS' Page 5



TAHOE CANADA, TIMMINS WEST & BELL CREEK MINES – Captain Adam Weagle leads the Tahoe mine rescue team during the underground scenario in the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition at Alamos Gold's Young-Davidson Mine.

2018 Provincial Competition Winners

Overall Winners

- 1st** – Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek Mines
- 2nd** – Vale Canada, East Mines

Technician Award

- 1st** – Simone Hensher, Glencore Sudbury INO
- 2nd** – Norm Gannon Jr., Kirkland Lake Gold, Macassa Mine
- 3rd** – Jean-Yves Doiron, Vale Canada, East Mines

Firefighting Award

Vale Canada, East Mines

First Aid Award

Vale Canada, East Mines

John Guthrie (Special Equipment) Award

KGHM

Theory Award

North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine

. . . faces next challenge at IMRC2018

Tahoe Canada's mine rescuers thought they were going to get a pat on the back for winning the 2018 Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition, but the pat on the back came in the form of a challenge – the 2018 International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC) in Russia.

The provincial champions are the only Ontario team, and one of two Canadian teams defending our title as reigning

international champions at the 11th IMRC in Ekaterinburg, Russia, Sept. 22 to 29. Twenty-eight teams representing 12 nations will participate in the biennial event.

The decision to send the team was made the week after the provincial competition, said Jordan Vince, Tahoe's director of health and safety.

"Management was discussing how well

the team had done," he said, winning the Timmins District for three consecutive years and now the provincial.

"As a recognition point for everyone who had participated, the next level would be getting the guys to compete on an international level, and of course, to see how they do in that kind of environment."

See 'CONGRATULATIONS' 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



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2018 AWARDS



First Overall

Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek Mines



Second Overall

Vale Canada, East Mines



John Guthrie (Special Equipment) Award

KGHM



Firefighting Award

Vale Canada, East Mines



First Aid Award

Vale Canada, East Mines



Theory Award

North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine



Technica Mining



HARD-LINE



Dräger



Technician Award

2nd – Norm Cannon Jr.
Kirkland Lake Gold,
Macassa Mine

1st – Simone Hensher
Glencore,
Sudbury INO

3rd – Jean-Yves Doiron
Vale Canada,
East Mines

Provincial Competition Gallery

Down & up in mine rescue

Eight mine rescue teams, eight rope rescues, each involving multiple downs and ups an 80-foot hole, without and with a stretcher, was a highlight of the 2018 Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition.

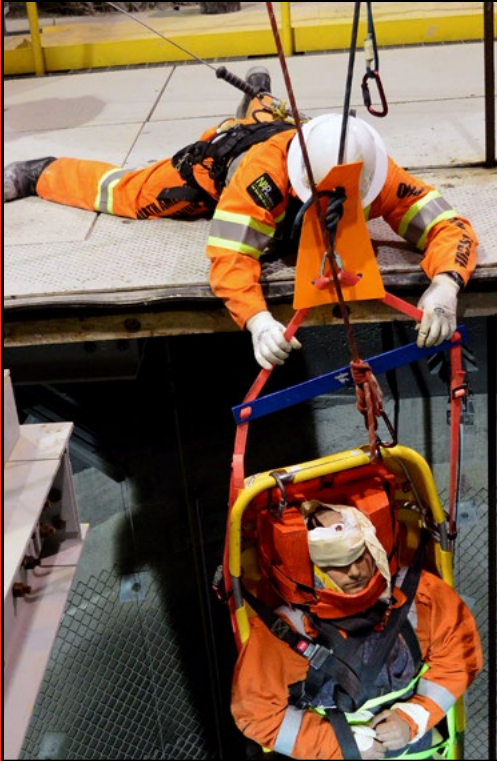
For more competition photos:

2018 Provincial Competition Slideshow
<https://tinyurl.com/ycnu2wqm>

2018 Provincial Competition Albums
<https://tinyurl.com/y73t3r95>

Or visit our Competition page
on our website for the above links:
www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue

Note photos can be downloaded
for personal, non-commercial use
from our albums.



North American Palladium, Lac des Iles



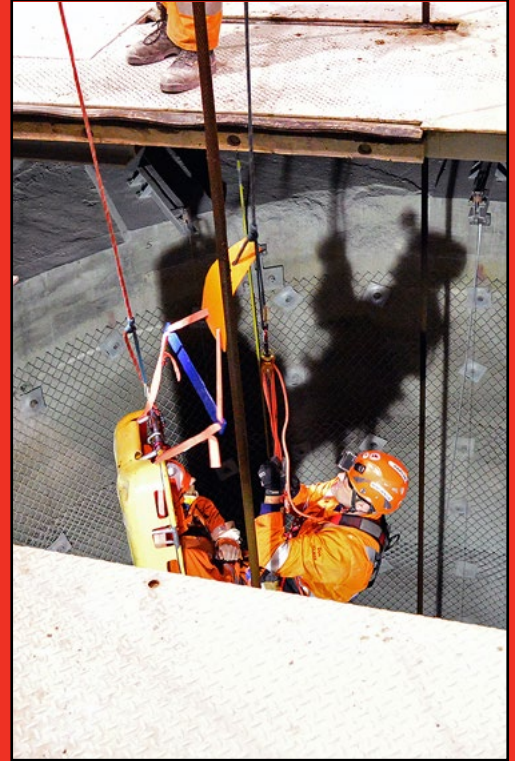
K+S Windsor Salt, Ojibway Mine



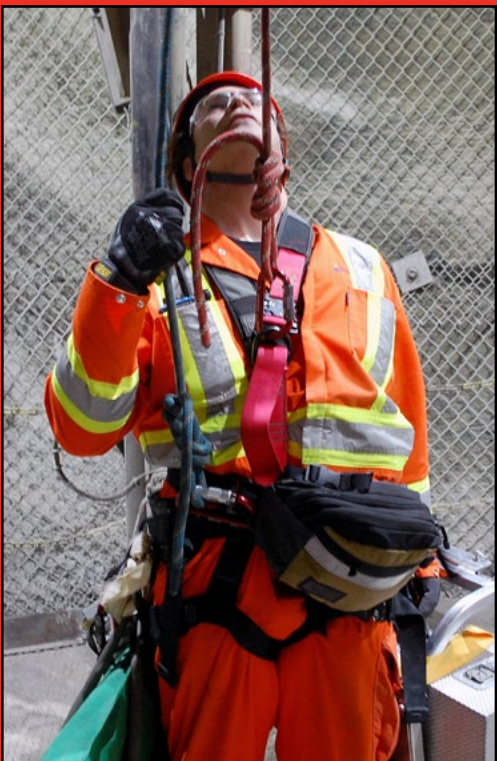
Boliden Tara Mine



Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine



KGHM



Tahoe Canada, Timmins West & Bell Creek



Vale Canada, East Mines



Kirkland Lake Gold, Holt Mine



Mine rescuers for Tahoe Canada, Timmins West and Bell Creek Mines want to replicate their 2018 Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition achievement at the 2018 International Mines Rescue Competition this September in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

Congratulations came with challenge

Continued from Page 1

“They arranged a teleconference meeting because everyone was back to work,” said Tahoe Captain Adam Weagle. “They said the new CEO wanted to congratulate all of us on the phone.”

“When we all called in, Mr. Dave Bernier (Bell Creek Mine manager), Mr. Jordan Vince, and Mr. Peter Van Alphen (vice president of operations) told us that it was all a fake, that the reason for the phone call was that we were all heading to Russia.”

It was a shock to the team, said Weagle, but “it was a nice shock. It was 6 in the morning, so it was nice to wake up to.”

“This was an opportunity for everybody to try something out of their comfort range,” said Vince, pausing to add “which will definitely be true.”

The early onus has been on the 10-member team, he said, which will consist of the same eight participants as at the provincial, plus coach Jim Davis, and a technical translator from Goldcorp.

“Luckily we’re diverse enough in our company we have access to folks who do speak fluent Russian and are in the mining industry,” said Vince, who will join the expedition with Timmins District Mine Rescue Officer (MRO) Danny Taillefer as co-facilitators and cheering section.

“A few of our guys haven’t had passports, I give them a lot of credit, they’re anxious to go and participate and be a part of something . . . and they’ve stepped to the plate and got their passports, I think, in record time,” Vince said.

Weagle said the team did not need any encouragement.

“All the boys are pretty excited about it. We’re thankful for the opportunity and looking forward to it,” he said. “We’ve all started a workout regime. We’re all studying. We’re all strategizing.”

Davis is already conferring with the district MROs, as well as Ontario Mine Rescue officials Ted Hanley and Shawn Rideout, competitor organizers of IMRC2016 in Sudbury, but training together as a team will not begin in earnest until about two weeks before leaving for Russia, Weagle said.

“But I think they’re (management’s) trying to get us a couple days in August, which is pretty generous. We’re all on different shifts, so they’re missing out on manpower no matter what day they pick. We’re pretty fortunate.”

The benefit, said Vince, is the opportunity for the team to expose themselves to, and test themselves in, a completely different environment, different rules, different teams from different jurisdictions.

“It’s also those variable aspects that mine rescue is famous for, that you can never plan for and this is one of those things that adds another element of preparation, and mental and physical



Ontario mine rescuers at the IMRC

6th IMRC – Reno, Nevada, 2008

Xstrata Nickel, Fraser/TL Mine*
– 5th Overall

9th IMRC – Bytom, Poland, 2014

Vale Canada, East Mines*
KGHM, Sudbury Basin Cobras

10th IMRC – Sudbury, Canada 2016

Kirkland Lake Gold

– 1st Overall

– 1st Underground Scenario

Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine*

– 1st Theory

– 2nd Underground Scenario

Vale Canada, West Mines

– 3rd High Angle Rope Rescue

– 3rd Theory

KGHM, Sudbury Basin Cobras

– 7th Overall

* Denotes OMR Provincial Competition Winner

readiness that the team has to account for,” he said.

During the provincial competition, Weagle said, “we were fortunate to stay in the same hotel as the team (Boliden Tara) from Ireland. . . it was cool to pick their brains on how they do things. They were picking ours to see how we do things.”

At the IMRC, said the captain, “maybe we can improve our knowledge, maybe we can improve theirs.”

“We all have the same goal at the end of the day. If someone’s in trouble, that’s what we do, that’s what we’re there for.”

Still it’s a competition, and Weagle’s outlook is that of a competitor. “I’m hoping to go over there and take the whole thing.”

Competitors respond to mutual aid

Continued from Page 1

The competition scenario had teams responding to a mutual aid call at Young-Davidson Mine. Its mine rescuers had left following a refresher training session to another mine's call for assistance. Teams had to re-assemble and function test BG4 breathing apparatus left to dry, repack a first aid kit, and field test standard equipment, before being briefed on a probable scoop fire, several unaccounted workers, and a shaft crew working at shaft bottom.

While on the 9440 Level heading to the fire, teams discovered six unaccounted mechanics in an unestablished air tent without an air supply and under deteriorating conditions. Teams could choose or were assigned to alter ventilation to the area by turning on fans, and when conditions permitted, evacuate the mechanics to the level refuge station.

Once the workers were safe, teams proceeded to the fire to build a barricade with materials left from the training exercise. Then, after fetching the Chemgard and high expansion foam, teams installed the foam generator into the newly built barricade to extinguish the fire.

When the fire was out, teams were directed to the shaft where an injured worker, unconscious and suffering head and spinal trauma, was found 80 feet below level on the Galloway platform. After getting out of oxygen, teams had to perform a rope rescue, then load the casualty into a personnel carrier for evacuation to surface, ending the scenario.

Competing mine rescue teams



LONG SERVICE AWARDS – Jamie Morton, left, and Ron Seguin, were thanked for a combined 70 years of service as volunteers to Ontario Mine Rescue. Morton, a 40-year veteran, and Seguin, a 30-year veteran, continue to volunteer on behalf of OMR.

represented K+S Windsor Salt Ojibway Mine (Southern District); Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine (Red Lake District); North American Palladium, Lac des Iles Mine (Thunder Bay & Algoma District); Tahoe Canada, Timmins West and Bell Creek Mines (Timmins District); Kirkland Lake Gold, Holt Mine (Kirkland Lake District); KGHM, Morrison and McCready West Mines (Onaping District); and Vale Canada, East Mines (Sudbury District).

Mine rescuers from Ireland's Boliden Tara Mines, Europe's largest zinc mine, rounded out the eight-team field. Boliden Tara, which used the Ontario Mine Rescue model when originally establishing its own

teams, has attended previous provincial competitions, and most recently visited as competitors in the 2016 International Mines Rescue Competition in Sudbury.

This year's competition was hosted by Alamos Gold Young-Davidson Mine. The event was sponsored by: Drager Safety; Technica Mining; Hard-Line; North American Palladium; T'NT Work & Rescue; Cementation; Komatsu; Tahoe Canada; DMC Mining Services; Epiroc; Miller Technology; Levitt Safety; G+ Plastics; Metso; Vipond Inc.; Alex MacIntyre and Associates; Goldbelt; The Bucket Shop; MacLean; Toromont, Matachewan First Nation; and Fountain Tire.



Who is that?

We know who they are, Stanleigh Mine's mine rescue team which represented Elliot Lake/Algoma District in the 1993 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, but we don't know who is who. If you can identify members of the team, please email kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca.

90th Anniversary party planning

Long-time mine rescue volunteer Norm Begin suggests posting a plaque or list of 90 years of volunteers in every Ontario Mine Rescue station.

What do you want to do to mark OMR's 90th anniversary next year?

We want to know how you think the occasion should be recognized.

Suggestions should focus on the volunteer – past and present, and involve all Ontario mining communities, 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 suggestions to:

OMR@workplacesafetynorth.ca

We'll update you on suggestions, and maybe plans, in the next Link Line.



Hey! That's . . .

Thanks to Steve Blinn and Jim Nerprin, who identified the 1983 Onaping District champion Falconbridge mine rescue team at the provincial competition in Sudbury: back left Jack Eagle, Brian Burton, Claude Laporte, Jim Nerpin, and front left Roy Rutland, Dave King and Guy Sabourin.



Almost there . . .

Thanks to Alan Gernon, Rob Nyland and Pierre Peloquin, who recognized and identified John McCuaig middle back, Dave Villeneuve front left, and Luc Major front right. 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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