



## New competitors already winning

### Company, workers commit to create competition team

Before launching a competition mine rescue team this winter, First Nickel and its mine rescuers asked each other for the same thing – commitment.

Since then both sides have given more than was asked agreed Ron Sizer, the safety and training supervisor at Lockerby Mine, and John Blier, the captain of the inexperienced but keen Lockerby mine rescue team.

“There’s been a very strong commitment to mine rescue, not just by management but by the team,” said Sizer, as the team prepared for the Sudbury District competition still weeks away.

Mine manager Clifford Lafleur said, “With the Lockerby Project underway and our full mine rescue complement on board, it is time for us to participate and compete. Fielding a competitive mine rescue team represents a step up in our site’s mine rescue awareness and an accomplishment everyone can be proud of.

See “Competition” Page 2



*John Blier, of First Nickel, will captain one of three teams representing companies competing for the first time in Ontario Mine Rescue district competitions this May. First Nickel will compete in the Sudbury District competition, while Dumas Mining Contracting will compete in the Timmins District and Brigus Gold Corp. will compete in the Kirkland Lake District.*

### Contractor team breaks new ground in district event

Dumas Mining Contracting’s mine rescue team may be a longshot to win the Timmins District competition, but from chief organizer and #2 Man Dave Bernier’s perspective that’s OK, because the team is already winning.

“The goal for me is to show a commitment to the program as a contractor,” Bernier said. “It’s not to win, it’s to get in there and get the invaluable experience you get from preparing for a competition.”

“Our team is from various mines around town,” said the mine rescue veteran, who recruited Dumas mine rescuers on projects at Kidd, Dome, Hoyle Pond and Taylor mines, as well as the company’s general office. Together they will break new ground by competing as a team representing Dumas – the first by the contractor.

Bernier admits to having been bitten by the mine rescue bug when he joined the program more than a dozen years ago.

See “Dumas” Page 6

## New mine rescue ‘book’ easy to read

Ontario Mine Rescue recently donated several books to the Greater Sudbury Public Library – *The Handbook of Mine Rescue Training*, *Under Oxygen - 75 Years of Mine Rescue in Ontario*, and Glen Duffy.

Duffy, a mine rescue volunteer, however, was only “on loan” as a human book to the library’s and CBC’s Human Library Project.

“It was pretty neat concept, instead

of reading a book, you talked to the book,” said Duffy, who had been approached by OMR to tell visitors about mine rescue and mine rescuers.

See “Book” Page 5

### 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, Ont. P1B 9P1

PH: (705) 474-7233

FAX: (705) 472-5800

[www.workplacesafetynorth.ca](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca)



# Competition team spurs pride

## 'Green but eager' volunteers plan to be prepared

Continued from page 1

"We are squarely behind our team," Lafleur said, explaining the genesis of the effort from management's side. And due to the fact that mine rescue involves the entire operation and mine rescuers can come from any department, all of the department heads had to commit their support.

They did, Sizer said, and that only left the question of commitment from the workers who were approached to determine their interest and support.

It turned out "they wanted to know the level of the company commitment and we wanted to know their level of commitment," said Sizer, who recites what seems a never-ending list of support, goods, services, and facilities First Nickel was prepared to commit.

Not just team uniforms, PPE, and a large well-equipped mine rescue room, re-arranged schedules to allow extra training time, training from the District Mine Rescue Officer, an outside mine rescue training consultant to coach the team, and unplanned and unexpected measures that didn't come to mind until the team needed them, he said.

### 'NO HOLDS BARRED'

For a small Canadian junior mining company starting a team is a big commitment, Sizer said, a commitment that is reflected in the pride workers are starting to take in the effort. He points to Leslie Reynolds, a trainer at Lockerby who has become an unofficial member and manager of the team.

"She does all the work," he said, from scheduling training to ensuring embroidery is done on each member's coveralls. Reynold's commitment reflects First Nickel's commitment and the volunteers see that.

"I had been looking forward for First Nickel to create a competition team," said Blier, whose six years as a mine rescue volunteer not only resulted in



*Back row, from left: Denis Prevost, Craig Hood, Sam Elder, Rob Nault, J.P. Dellaire. Front row: Captain John Blier, Leslie Reynolds, Claude Belanger, Mike Kucheran.*

his being appointed captain but makes him the most experienced member of the team.

He volunteered at last year's provincial competition in Sudbury which whetted his appetite and helped attract others interested in mine rescue. When he was approached about the team, First Nickel made the decision to join easy.

"They want to do it right," said Blier, adding the company's commitment brought more volunteers, including most of the team, to mine rescue.

"Once the mine had their commitment, and they had our commitment, now it's no holds barred," said Sizer. "I can't stop them. They're coming in on their own time. These guys are pumped."

"These guys, they are green but they are eager," said John Chenier, the outside mine rescue trainer, brought in for a week in March to help prepare them for when their regular Mine Rescue Officer/Consultant Bruce Hall arrives for competition training.

Blier said the members appreciate Chenier's help, as well as the extra training time the company has provided. In turn, "we all agreed to come in on our own time to study together for the MCQs, (multiple

choice questions) and work hard to make sure we're ready."

The team's inexperience – only Blier has more than a year in mine rescue – is not a good indication of how well they will perform under pressure in the competition, he said. The team includes paramedics, a nurse, a volunteer firefighter, a member with 15 years mine management experience, and a briefing officer who is an engineer.

### PRIDE ON THE LINE

The skill, ability and desire are there, he said, it just hasn't been put to use in competition . . . yet.

Blier and Sizer agree on more than the need for commitment. They agree that despite the effort, they are as a first-time entrant unlikely to win the district competition, but there is pride on the line.

"We want to come out with our heads held high," said Sizer.

"We want to represent First Nickel. We're going to be sure we're prepared, and we're going to do our best," said Blier.

"We're very committed to working safe, working smart, working together," said Sizer, repeating a First Nickel safety theme. "This is a test of that commitment."





**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION** – From left, mine rescue volunteer Paul Aho, the Discovery Channel's Alan Nursall, and mine rescue volunteer Mike Dudar pose for a scene in a video for the Alan Nursall Experience, a feature segment shown on Daily Planet. The video, titled *Mine Fire*, can be seen at [www.discovery.ca/Article.aspx?aid=47686](http://www.discovery.ca/Article.aspx?aid=47686).

## Alan Nursall's mine rescue experience

“Fighting” an underground fire as a mine rescue volunteer was an experience Alan Nursall will not forget.

The scientist/educator/journalist's video feature – Alan Nursall Experience – a regular segment on the Discovery Channel's flagship series Daily Planet has him experiencing life, science and technology as few people do.

“I loved it. I thought it was terrific,” said Nursall, whose experiences in March resulted in a five-minute segment as a mine rescuer at Vale's Creighton Mine. The video, *Mine Fire*, can be seen at [www.discovery.ca/Article.aspx?aid=47686](http://www.discovery.ca/Article.aspx?aid=47686).

The idea of doing a segment on mine rescue arose several months ago, but progress was slow until Vale, with which Nursall has worked on previous projects, was contacted.

“Vale and Mine Rescue, they just got right to it and made it happen extremely quickly and it was great.”

In the segment, Vale mine rescuer and “team captain” Mike Dudar directs #2 Man Nursall to check the air for contamination, attack an equipment fire with foam from a compressed

air foam generator, and to use high expansion foam to knock down a stubborn fire.

“When we're talking to people about these types of shoots,” Nursall explained, “we're looking for their expertise to guide us and we look for the things that will look good on television and tell an interesting story.”

The purpose of the segment was “to take the viewer where they don't normally get to go, to see an emergency situation they don't normally think about,” he said. Part of the scenario is extinguishing the fire, “but in the bigger picture it's about how the rescue people . . . have limited resources and they've got to rely on their experience and expertise to get the job done.”

### SEVERAL INSIGHTS

The experience also gave Nursall several insights into mine rescue.

“I had never been in a full rebreather before. I was surprised at how simple and efficient and effective it was. Once you're in it, you totally forget you're in it,” he said.

But an even bigger insight was into mine rescue volunteers.

“I didn't realize until we were sort of halfway through this was that

how all the people on a mine rescue team are volunteers from other parts of the mining operation. I had envisioned these folks as mine rescue professionals,” Nursall said. “It was really fascinating to see the broad range of expertise . . . of people who have the training and the motivation to get involved with this.”

The segment was well received by Discovery Channel and Daily Planet, he said, and “I'm sure our viewers loved it too. I think it turned out extremely well.”

Nursall credits Vale and his mine rescue team for the success of the segment.

“Making TV like that is a real pain in the butt. It really is. When you see it on TV it looks so smooth, like you went down there pointed a few cameras and everything happened,” he said. “It's a pain. It's slow. It's tiring and they (the mine rescue volunteers, Vale officials, Mine Rescue Officer/Consultant Bruce Hall) were incredibly patient and incredibly accommodating.

“So just a huge, huge thank you,” said Nursall, who would now like to attend a mine rescue competition. Perhaps as a participant?



*The MX6 iBrid by Industrial Scientific*

## MX6, Kestrel to be standard

Two new pieces of equipment – the MX6 iBrid multigas detector and the Kestrel 3500 Pocket Weather Meter – will join the list of standard equipment for Ontario Mine Rescue teams later this year.

The MX6 by Industrial Scientific will replace the iTX Multigas Monitor, while the Kestrel by Neilsen-Kellerman which measures temperature, humidity and other environment factors will be used to help teams determine and monitor their heat exposure during training and callouts.

Training modules for both pieces of equipment will be prepared over the next several months and will be introduced in the fall.

The MX6 was the top-rated multi-gas monitor among four finalists in a request for proposals to replace the iTX. All models were evaluated by a subcommittee of the Mine Rescue Advisory Committee on eight criteria, including extensive field testing, maintenance, life expectancy, standard approvals, availability, references, and pricing.

More than 250 volunteers were involved during the field tests and highly rated the MX6 as easy to calibrate and use.



*The Kestrel 3500 by Neilsen-Kellerman*

# Countdown to IMRB 2013

## Registrations climb for international conference

More than 100 delegates from over a dozen countries have already registered for IMRB 2013, the sixth biennial conference of the International Mines Rescue Body (IMRB) now less than six months away.

Registrations, which are still being accepted, are on target, said co-organizer Alex Gryska, of Ontario Mine Rescue. The IMRB 2013 website – [www.IMRB2013.ca](http://www.IMRB2013.ca) – allows participants to register online or download a registration form to fax or mail.

The conference, October 5 to 10 in Niagara Falls, Canada is hosted by the Canadian mining industry, Canada's Chief Inspectors of Mines and Canadian mine rescue organizations to share knowledge and expertise in mine emergency response.

A call for papers on innovative ideas and ways to improve emergency preparedness, planning and response initiatives, as well as to share information on equipment, research, lessons learned at mine rescue incidents and more, has been issued. Submissions are still being accepted.

Proposed papers currently include shaft sinking mine rescue, wireless

video in mine rescue, emerging rescue technologies, virtual emergency mine training and more.

An optional package includes an all-inclusive field trip following the



formal conference to Sudbury, October 10 to 13, to tour various mines, attend a trade show and more.

The field trip is hosted by major mining companies – Vale, Xstrata Nickel and KGHM; the City of Sudbury and Workplace Safety North.

Delegates will visit major Sudbury attractions, such as SNOLAB – the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, two kilometres underground at Vale's Creighton Mine – a boat cruise, a hockey game and a gala Canadian Feast.

Vale, Xstrata Nickel and KGHM will also offer tours of underground and surface operations, demonstrating innovative technology such as deep mining techniques and an underground environmental greenhouse.

Come join us – share the vision and share the knowledge as IMRB 2013 reaches towards our common purpose, promoting and improving mine rescue at an international level through global cooperation.

### To Register Online

visit [www.IMRB2013.ca](http://www.IMRB2013.ca) to complete the online form

### To Register by Paper

visit [www.IMRB2013.ca](http://www.IMRB2013.ca) to download a registration form

### To Submit a Paper

visit [www.IMRB2013.ca](http://www.IMRB2013.ca) to complete the online form

visit [www.minerescue.org/conferences](http://www.minerescue.org/conferences) to complete the online form

or contact: [alexgryska@workplacesafetynorth.ca](mailto:alexgryska@workplacesafetynorth.ca)

### For More Information. . .

on IMRB 2013: [www.IMRB2013.ca](http://www.IMRB2013.ca)

on the IMRB: [www.minerescue.org](http://www.minerescue.org)

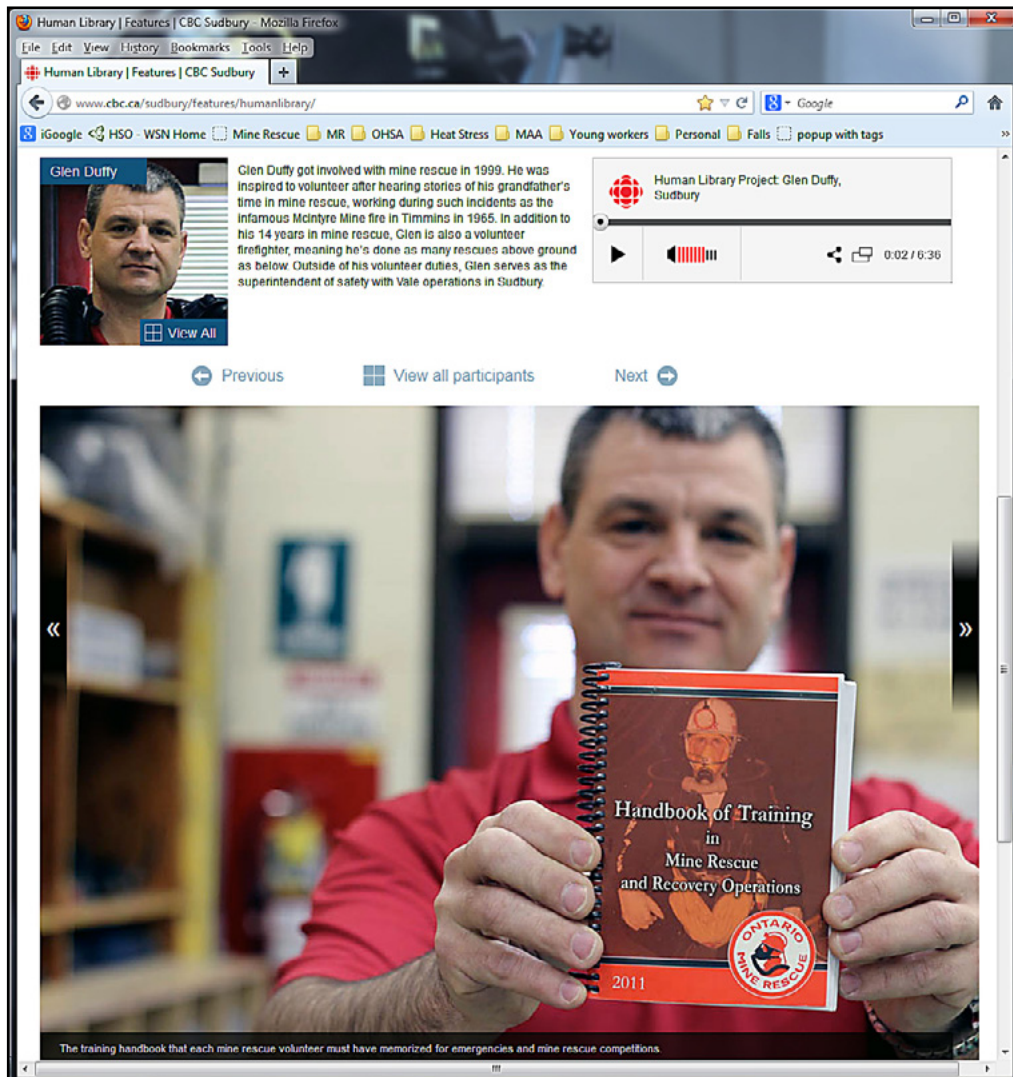
on Niagara Falls, Canada: [www.niagarafallstourism.com](http://www.niagarafallstourism.com)

on Sudbury, Canada: [www.sudburytourism.ca](http://www.sudburytourism.ca)

### To Contact Us

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





**READ THAT TO ME AGAIN** – A six-minute excerpt of Glen Duffy, the human mine rescue book, is still available online at [www.cbc.ca/sudbury/features/humanlibrary](http://www.cbc.ca/sudbury/features/humanlibrary).

## ‘Book’ loaned to library

Continued from page 1

Organized across Canada by the CBC and local libraries, the project is an international effort where humans take on the role of books. In January, library visitors had the opportunity to speak informally for about 20 minutes with Duffy and other “human books” to hear their stories.

To promote the event, the CBC broadcast interviews with Duffy and the other “books”, and posted the interviews on its website. Visit [www.cbc.ca/sudbury/features/humanlibrary](http://www.cbc.ca/sudbury/features/humanlibrary) for a link to Duffy’s six-minute talk about mine rescue.

In addition to the printed books donated to the library, Duffy brought a BG4 and a thermal imaging camera for display, 14 years of experience as a volunteer, and a family history in mine rescue of more than 50 years.

“People would come into the library, look at the human books and then choose who they wanted to spend their 20-minute timeslots with and then they would get booked into a slot,” explained Duffy, a superintendent of safety with Vale.

“It was fun. It was really interesting to talk to people and be able to share what the program offers and what the members of the mine rescue program dedicate themselves to,” said Duffy, who was booked solid for the afternoon of the project.

“I ended up staying an extra half-hour. I couldn’t end it because there was a family and the children really wanted to see the camera and the BG4.”

After some uncertainty by readers in how to start a human book, Duffy advised them just to ask a question or two and let the discussion build from there.

“And by doing that format, it just flowed. There were no dull or dead times in the conversation,” he said.

“They were all pretty much people who had no clue (about mine rescue) and were very much interested in what we do.” Questions often focused on the equipment or what it was like in an emergency situation when you know the person.

## A mine rescue family history in trophies and books

Glen Duffy may be the first in his family to be a human mine rescue book, but he’s not the first in his family to be in a book about mine rescue, or to put his name on a district championship trophy.

His grandfather, Joe Pacione, was the first-ever captain to lead a team to three consecutive wins in the Timmins District competition from 1963 to 1965, said Duffy, and Pacione won one more for good measure in 1968.

Pacione also captained a team during the McIntyre Mine Fire in 1965, earning himself small recognition in *Under Oxygen - 75 Years of Mine Rescue in Ontario*. His name is listed on a chalkboard as captain in a photograph in the book.

### INTRIGUING STORIES

“We talked many nights about the fire and the different things that he experienced and that he’d seen his team members experience throughout the course of that fire,” Duffy said.

“That intrigued me as a young boy and when I got into mining I joined mine rescue.”

Duffy’s first experience in competition was a spare on a team in the Timmins competition. “We ended up winning and I ended up calling him that night. It was the first phone call I made,” he said.

Later “when we put the plaque with our names on the Porcupine District Trophy, right above us was my grandfather’s name and his team . . . He was pretty proud to see that. It was like it was meant to happen.”

# Dumas, clients support effort

Continued from page 1

Bernier has competed and judged at competitions, and has never lost his enthusiasm, not so much for competition, but to be well trained in mine rescue knowledge and skills.

“You know mine rescue, once it gets in the blood it doesn’t leave,” said Bernier, explaining his desire to build a team was one shared with others at Dumas over the last 18 months. The company has trained mine rescuers at sites throughout Ontario, even elsewhere in Canada, but to compete team members had to be close enough to train together regularly.

Though the idea of having a competition team was new to Dumas and its clients, their support “has been very, very good,” he said. For Dumas it’s good employee engagement, and for the clients “from a risk management perspective, it’s always better to have more people who are emergency ready,” Bernier said.

“In the fall we started picking up some steam and getting some people active again. In October we had five or six guys reactivated.” A couple more joined in the fall, but not until late January were they confident they could field a team. The company now has about 11 mine rescuers in the area.

“The competing team all had (mine rescue) training before,” including three with competition experience, Bernier said, “but we’re also carrying a spare member” who only completed his basic training in the new year.

Since creating the team, the challenge has been getting everybody together for training.

“Each one of our clients have different operating schedules and . . . it’s



**Back row from left: Captain Chad Montigny, Vice-captain Sebastien Turcotte, Derek Beaudry, Briefing Officer Neil MacInnes. Front row: Dave Bernier, Brent Woods, Yves Guillemette. Missing: Terry Rickard.**

the scheduling that makes it very hard,” Bernier explained. Also Dumas is a contractor, “so we don’t have people who can backfill these positions” while the team is training.

“A week and a half before (the competition) we’re going to start training full-time, in the meantime we’re very committed.” The team members spend personal time studying “the book and MCQs”, and “every Sunday we try to get together and whomever is not working that day comes out.”

Goldcorp allows the team to use the Dome mine for regular training, “something we’re very appreciative of, but we don’t like to overstep our bounds, so when we train independently we go to the Mine Rescue Station,” he said. How much of a handicap not having the full facility of an operating mine supporting them remains to be seen.

“We’re not the favourites for sure, but we’re going to put our best foot

forward,” said Bernier, noting that other teams, whom they sometimes see practising, “have a lot of people in their program and they have a lot of experience. We know what we’re up against.”

Bernier does not see that as anything to get discouraged about.

“I’d be lying if I said I don’t want to do well and I do, but I’m a realist and I know that there’s a few of us with (competition) experience and the rest of us are brand new and really it’s about them gaining training and experience,” Bernier said.

And the effort is building momentum beyond the members.

“People are starting to gain interest in the program, and the more people that get mine rescue training, the more that will want to join a team,” he said. “We’ll definitely get one or two new guys a year and keep what we started going.”

The team is already winning.

## ‘I’m a little scared,’ confides miner’s mother

Continued from page 3

One more memorable reader was the mother of an underground miner.

“She said to me, ‘I don’t know if I should be talking to you, I’m a little scared,’” said Duffy, who welcomed her, suggesting that by the end of the conversation she would “have the comfort to know in the event there’s a tragedy, there’s someone there for your son.”

“In the end she was very happy, gave me a little bit of a hug and thanked me so much because she felt so much more comfortable . . . knowing her son was in a safe working environment.”

Overall the readers, who occasionally doubled up, “were floored with what we do,” the volunteer said. “It was a success. It was really good. It was well done. The CBC and the library, they

did a fantastic job.”

Duffy said he was honoured to be part of the Human Library Project, representing Ontario Mine Rescue and, especially, its volunteers.

“We’re a small tight knit group that people really don’t know about,” he said, but volunteers would feel rewarded if they knew the support that exists when people learn about what they do.





### Are Surface Operations Prepared?

*Guy Lamb and Terry McLean of Xstrata Copper check out a harness following a presentation on Surface Mine Rescue in Ontario at Workplace Safety North's annual Mining Health and Safety Conference by Shawn Kirwan, Emergency Services Specialist, and Manny Cabral, Mine Rescue Officer/Consultant with Ontario Mine Rescue. Other mine rescue-related presentations at the April conference included IMRB - Foundation for Global Mine Rescue Standards by Alex Gryska of OMR, Risk-Based Mine Rescue by Markus Uchtenhagen of Goldcorp, and Interaction Dynamics and Mine Rescue Team Performance, by Dr. Mary Waller of the Schulich School of Business at York University. The presentations are available for downloading at [www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/subsite/mining-health-and-safety-conference/conference-proceedings](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca/subsite/mining-health-and-safety-conference/conference-proceedings).*

## Change highlights mission, history

A small change – the addition of a motto – to the Ontario Mine Rescue logo highlights both the mission and the history of the organization.

“Prepared Since 1929” will be appended underneath the familiar red and black circular logo which features a helmeted mine rescue volunteer wearing a breathing apparatus.



The text, of course, refers to the founding of OMR in 1929 after an inquiry into the Hollinger Mine Fire revealed a lack of emergency preparedness led to the tragedy which claimed 39 lives.

The updated logo will be used on new communications and training materials.

## Who's where at WSN Mine Rescue

### Mine Rescue Officers/Consultants

- **Walter (Wally) Adler, Sudbury**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 331
- **Wayne Baker, Kirkland Lake**  
(705) 567-4606
- **Emanuel (Manny) Cabral, Timmins**  
(705) 235-4861
- **Duane Crowell, Thunder Bay**  
(807) 344-8211
- **Tim Ebbinghaus, Thunder Bay**  
(807) 344-8211
- **Pat Gauthier, Marathon**  
(807) 238-1155
- **John Hagan, Onaping**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 334
- **Bruce Hall, Sudbury**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 335
- **Grant Saunders, Red Lake**  
(807) 735-2331
- **Danny Taillefer, Timmins**  
(705) 235-4861
- **Tim Taylor, Delaware**  
(519) 652-9809

### Head Office (Sudbury)

- **Shawn Kirwan, Emergency Services Specialist**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 322
- **Charlie Burton, Mine Rescue Program Supervisor**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 329
- **Isabella Caron, Administration**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 321
- **Alex Gryska, Ontario Mine Rescue Director**  
(705) 670-5707 ext. 330

### Communications (North Bay)

- **Ken Sitter, Writer**  
(705) 474-7233 ext. 234

### About the Mine Rescue Newsletter

The Mine Rescue newsletter is published three times per year by Workplace Safety North (WSN). WSN is funded by workplaces in the province, through 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, Ont. P3A 2T4  
PH: (705) 671-6360  
FAX: (705) 670-5708  
[www.workplacesafetynorth.ca](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca)