



Link Line

AN UPDATE FROM OMR ON YOUR MINE RESCUE PROGRAM

ISSUE #38 - 90th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Happy 90th Anniversary!

Regulation creating OMR approved June 20, 1929

For those who need a date for cake and ice cream to celebrate Ontario Mine Rescue's 90th anniversary, Ted Hanley suggests today - June 20.

"If you want to look for a true anniversary of the (Ontario) Mine Rescue program, you look at what happened in (19)29," OMR's vice president said during a presentation at Workplace Safety North's Mining Health and Safety Conference.

That year "the (then) Workman's Compensation Board passed Regulation 98 which essentially outlined that they agree that we will establish mine rescue stations, equip them, and appoint Mine Rescue Officers to oversee training in the province, and that will be paid (for) through the workman's compensation program."

The minister of mines reviewed it and recommended it, and on June 20, the regulation was approved and ordered, said Hanley.

The creation of OMR was based on the recommendations of T.E. Godson, who was appointed by the Ontario government to investigate the Feb. 10, 1928 Hollinger Mine Fire which resulted in the deaths of 39 miners.

On Feb. 13, Godson was appointed and the final part of his two-part report was released eight months later in September.

TESTAMENT TO DISASTER

"That's pretty efficient work. It's a testament to the scale of this disaster and how it was recognized across the province," Hanley said. Within months, mine rescuers were being trained, and within three years, three mine rescue stations were established.

Investigations into subsequent incidents contributed to the continuing development of mine rescue: the Malartic Fire in 1947 led to standardize training and procedures; the McIntyre Mine Fire in 1965 led to the adoption of the four-hour breathing apparatus; and, the Falconbridge Rockburst in 1984 led to the expansion of mine rescue responsibilities.

"About every 20 to 25 years something occurs that changes how we think about (mine) emergency response in the province," he said.

The Mining Health, Safety and Prevention Review in 2014 followed the deaths of two Sudbury miners, Jason Chenier and Jordan Fram a year earlier, and Ontario Mine Rescue is working to implement the recommendations of that review, he said.

The first mine rescue competition in 1950 was a basic challenge, Hanley said. Teams had to walk through a set of doors to the end of a drift to take gas readings.

"We've expanded that these days to challenge teams to the best of their abilities."

The competition scenarios, particularly at the provincial competition, are the hardest scenarios mine rescue volunteers will ever face, he said.

Today competitions "are our largest public community engagement events of the year. Spouses, children, community members, co-workers can come to watch the mine rescue competition. We're evaluating



Ted Hanley



The Toronto Star, February 1928

the team, but it's their chance to tell the community they are there for them."

"In 1980 there were 100 mine rescue operations conducted in the province, by '89 that number was down to 40, and by '99 it was at 23." The number of operations has plateaued between 15 and 25 annually, he said.

See 'IMPACT' Page 13



- 1928** Hollinger Mine disaster in Timmins claims 39 lives
- 1929** Ontario Mine Rescue created under Department of Mines
First Ontario Mine Rescue station opens in Timmins
- 1930** First Sudbury mine rescue station opens
First edition of the Ontario Mine Rescue Handbook printed
- 1932** First Kirkland Lake mine rescue station opens
- 1947** Equipment and training standardized in Ontario following East Malartic Mine fire in Quebec
- 1950** First Ontario Mine Rescue Competition won by Pamour Porcupine Mines

- 1965** Mine rescuers battle week-long McIntyre Mine fire in Timmins, leading to introduction of four-hour breathing apparatus BG174
- 1978** First woman, Cynthia Cameron, certified as a mine rescuer
- 1984** Falconbridge Mine rockburst claims four miners. Subsequent Stevenson inquiry expands the mandate of Ontario Mine Rescue to include all underground emergency response
- 2004** Standard breathing apparatus changed to BG4
- 2013** International Mines Rescue Body conference for the first time in Canada in Niagara Falls, Ontario
- 2016** International Mines Rescue Competition for first time in Canada in Sudbury

MINE RESCUE DISTRICTS AND VOLUNTEERS



ALGOMA 100 Volunteers	SOUTHERN 76 Volunteers
KIRKLAND LAKE 136 Volunteers	SUDBURY 71 Volunteers
ONAPING 91 Volunteers	THUNDER BAY 87 Volunteers
RED LAKE 127 Volunteers	TIMMINS 157 Volunteers

Total: 845 Ontario Mine Rescue Volunteers

About Ontario Mine Rescue: For 90 years, Ontario Mine Rescue, now a part of Workplace Safety North, has trained and equipped over 12,000 volunteers to fight fires, rescue injured and missing personnel, and respond to emergencies in Ontario’s mines. OMR maintains a network of mine rescue stations across the province, and also provides specialized emergency services training to industrial organizations. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca/minerescue.

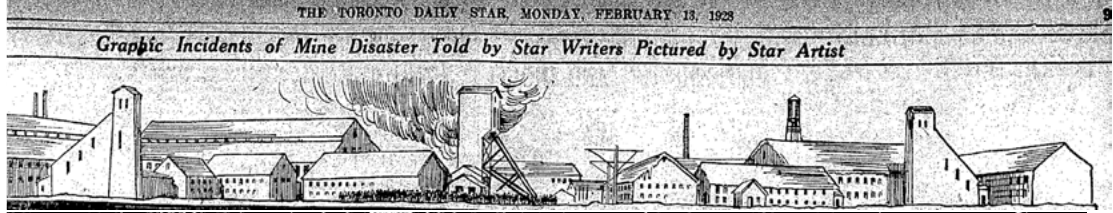


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in f y t i

Graphic Incidents of Mine Disaster Told by Star Writers Pictured by Star Artist



The Origins



About 9:15 a.m., Friday, Captains Pond and Graham discover smoke, give alarm and start out to warn men. Graham, overcome, dies below.



Gasping men are rushed to the surface in the shaft cages as soon as the alarm is received. All but 51 of the 700 employed are safe.



At 9:45 a.m. Friday, C. H. Trevenna and nine others break air hose and direct currents of fresh air against the surging clouds of poisonous gases.



At 10 a.m. eleven men trapped on the 550 level leave comrades and start climbing up a ramp to the next level above. They are not seen again.



About 2 p.m., two men who started to locate fire found by N. Petchick and others overcome. Rescue efforts fail as rescuers almost collapse.



When lights go out Friday afternoon C. Leven and C. H. Trevenna grope about the workings for outlet. Gasping for breath, search fails.



At 11:55 a.m. Saturday, first four men in 19 hours descend shaft, equipped with masks rushed from Toronto by special train.



At 1 p.m. Saturday George Zolob leaves companions on 600 level and crawls on hands and knees to the shaft and signals for the cage.



A minute later Zolob is brought to the surface. Weak, suffering from gas his arrival is the first indication of life below. He tells about his mates.



Treven, Leven and companions, wandering aimlessly, discover bodies of two men sitting against wall dead, lunches opened in front of them.



Zolob and companions, caught in gas, find relief by directing stream of air from pipe against rocky wall and spreading air over greater area.



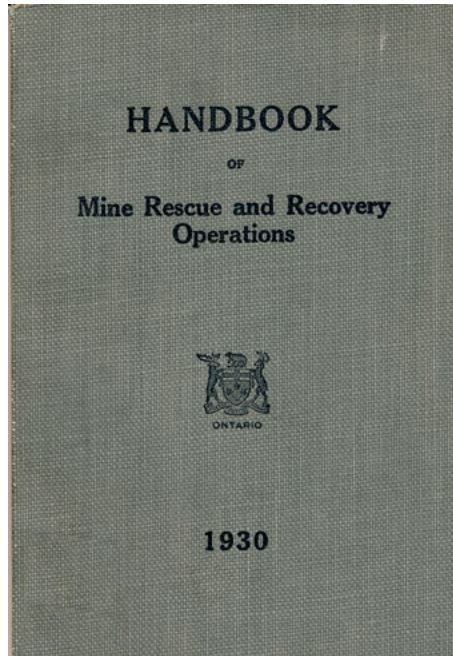
Fearing insanity from agonizing headaches caused by gas, miners find only relief by bathing heads with water from rocky floor.



1929-1939

Mine Rescue Stations

- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)



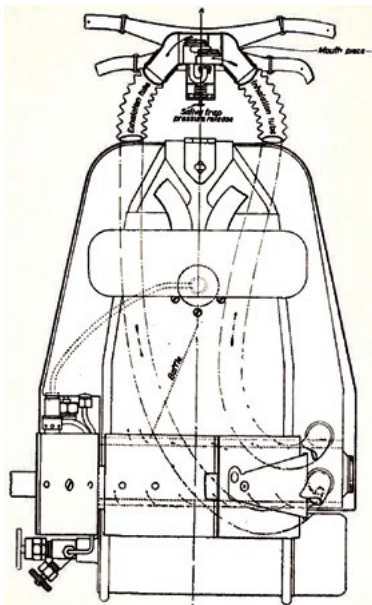
First Mine Rescue Handbook - 1930



Timmins mine rescue volunteers - 1929



First mine rescue vehicle - 1931



First breathing apparatus - McCaa



Austin Neame, first Mine Rescue Officer - 1929-1947



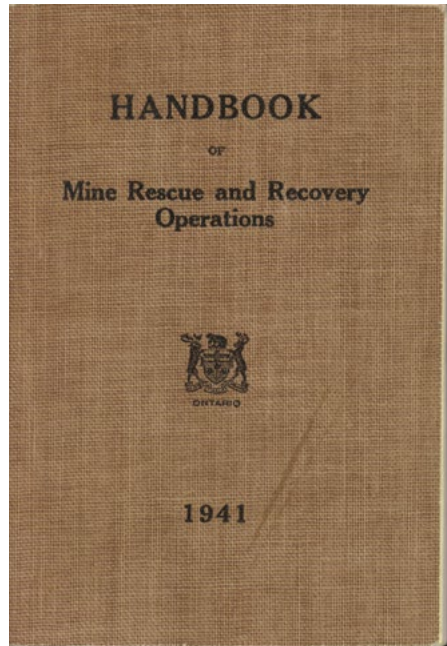
Sudbury mine rescue volunteers - 1936



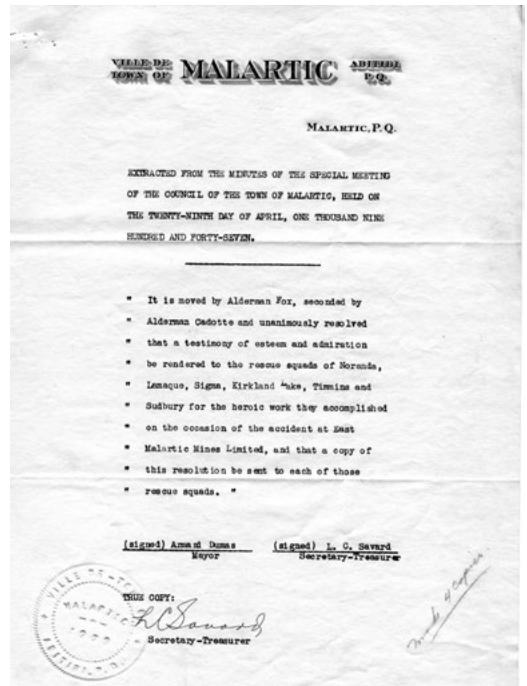
1939-1949

Mine Rescue Stations

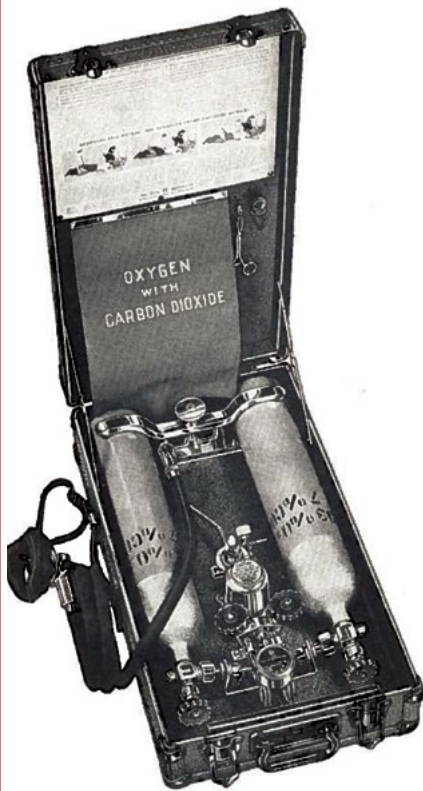
- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Geraldton (1947-)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)



Second edition
Mine Rescue Handbook - 1941



Declaration from Town of Malartic, PQ,
thanking Ontario Mine Rescue teams - 1947



Oxygen inhalator for use
on unconscious casualties



Mine rescue team exiting from smoke training exercise



Mine rescue vehicle and interior - 1941



1949-1959

Mine Rescue Stations

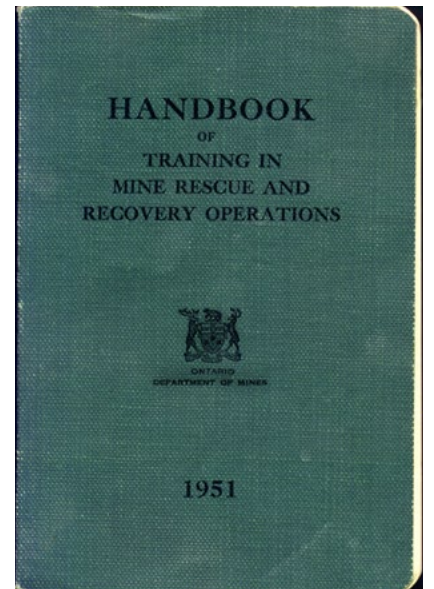
- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Geraldton (1947-)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Cobalt (1953-)
- Elliot Lake (1958-)



Falconbridge Provincial Mine Rescue Competition team, from left, Pete Henry, Wally Teed, Jack Heit, Doug Daigle, Maurice Lalonde, Mervin Comba - 1952



Mine rescue vehicle and volunteers with Sudbury District Mine Rescue Superintendent George McPhail, left - 1954



Third edition Mine Rescue Handbook - 1951



First Elliot Lake District Mine Rescue Competition - 1959



Colormetric carbon monoxide tester



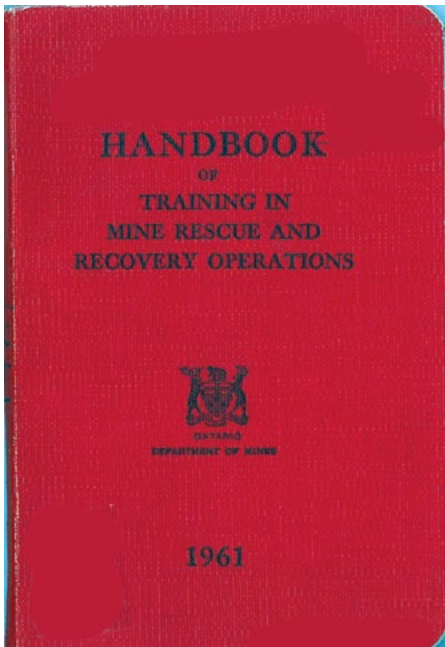
1959-1969

Mine Rescue Stations

- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Geraldton (1947-)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Cobalt (1953-)
- Elliot Lake (1958-)
- Onaping (1968-present)



During a training exercise, captain Ray Spotton checks his notes while reporting to the briefing officer on a phone - 1962



Sixth edition
Mine Rescue Handbook - 1961



A mine rescue team listens to a briefing before being deployed to fight the McIntyre Fire - 1965



Testing the inhalation valve on the McCaa breathing apparatus - 1961



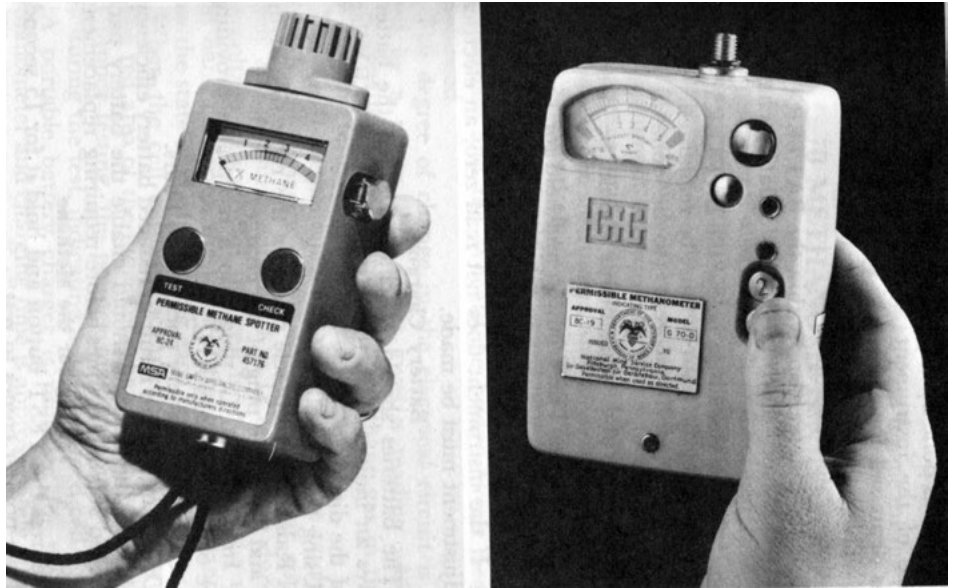
A mine rescue volunteer Gerry Tremblay dons a new Dräger BG174 breathing apparatus with the assistance of Mine Rescue Officer John Guthrie - 1968



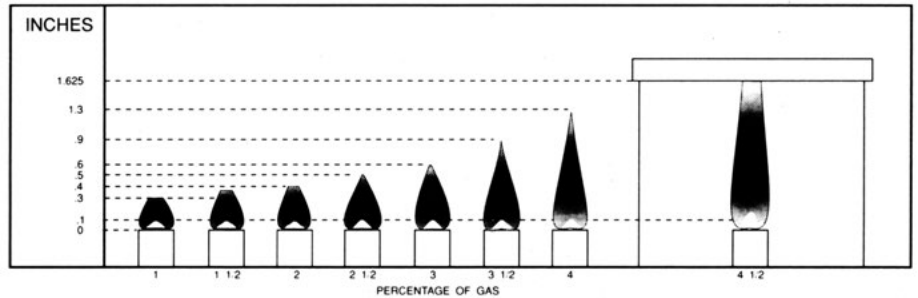
1969-1979

Mine Rescue Stations

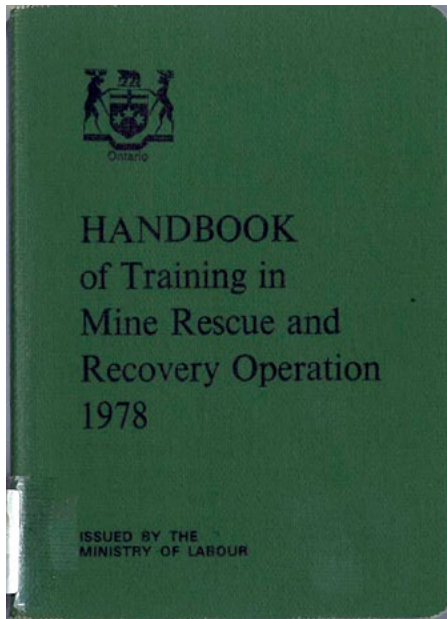
- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Geraldton (1947-1977)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Cobalt (1953-1977)
- Elliot Lake (1958-)
- Onaping (1968-Present)
- Algoma
Manitouwadge (1977-)



The MSA Methane “Spotter”, left, and the G70 Methanometer were introduced to mine rescue volunteers in the 1970s, but . . .



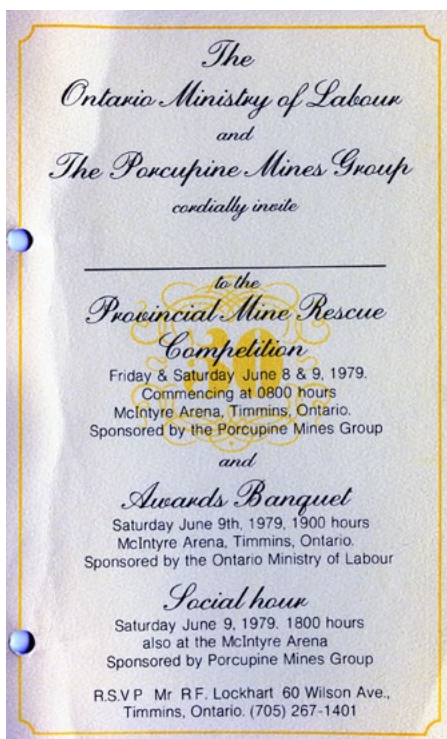
. . . volunteers were instructed into the 1990s on how to use the gas cap on a safety flame lamp to read methane levels



12th edition
Mine Rescue Handbook - 1978



Mine rescue volunteer Dave Bruce shows mine rescue equipment to friends and family at a mine rescue display at Inco's Stobie Mine - 1977



OMR celebrated 50 years by holding the provincial competition in a central location, Timmin's McIntyre Arena, for the first time in 20 years - 1979



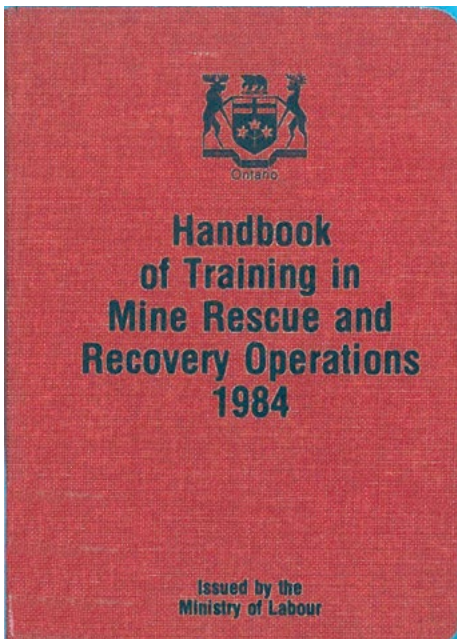
1979-1989

Mine Rescue Stations

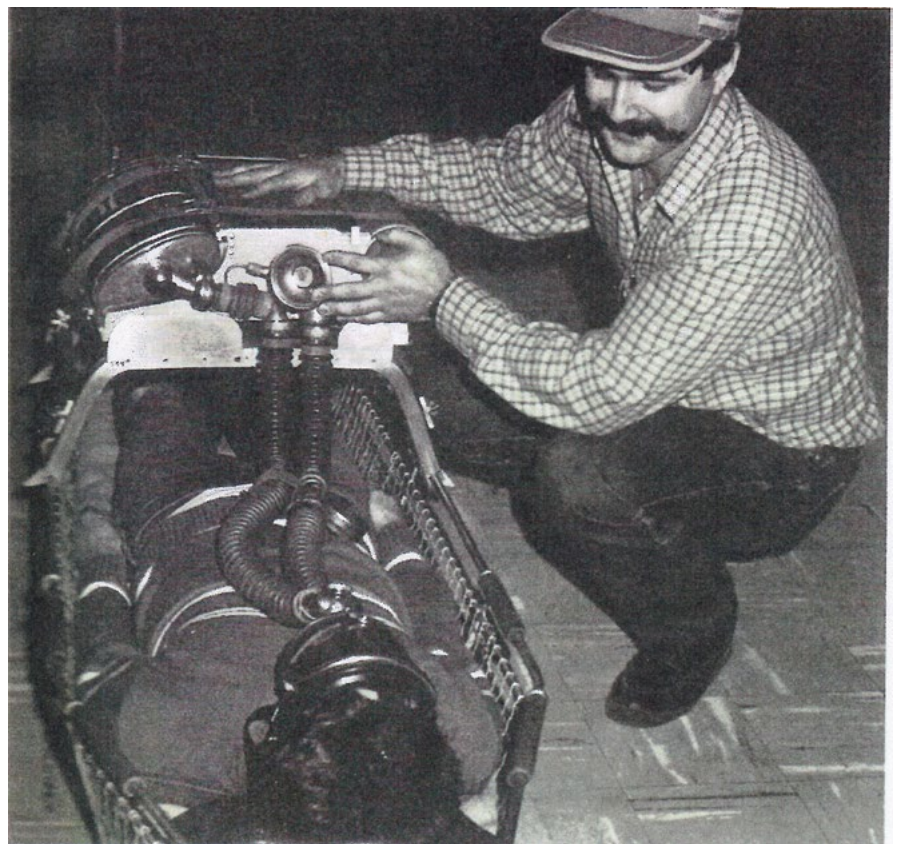
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- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Elliot Lake (1958-)
- Onaping (1968-Present)
- Algoma
in Manitouwadge (1977-1982)
(1987-)
- Thunder Bay (1982-1987)
- Delaware (1989-Present)



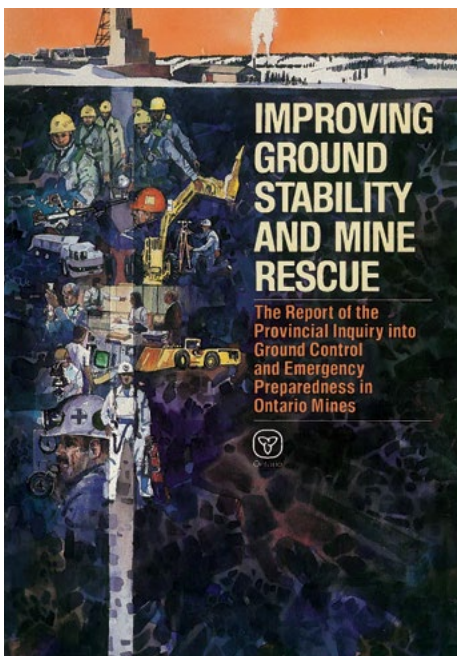
Linda Bell, left, with the Umex-Thierry Mine Rescue team became the first woman to compete in a Provincial Mine Rescue Competition – 1980



13th edition
Mine Rescue Handbook – 1984



Elliot Lake mine rescue volunteer Stephan Boucher demonstrates the use of the original stretcher bridge he designed for OMR – 1987



The Stevenson Report following the inquiry into the 1984 Falconbridge Rockburst – 1986



Team Ontario, from left, Jack Wallgren, Allan Simpson, Larry Livingston, Myron McCormick, Greg Hobson, John Hagan, Gerry Labelle, Ron Eveson, Gerry Bilodeau, Brian McKenzie, and Charlie Burton, won two of six events at the Canadian Mine Rescue Competition in Nanaimo, B.C., including the British Columbia Mining Association Trophy – 1986



1989-1999

Mine Rescue Stations

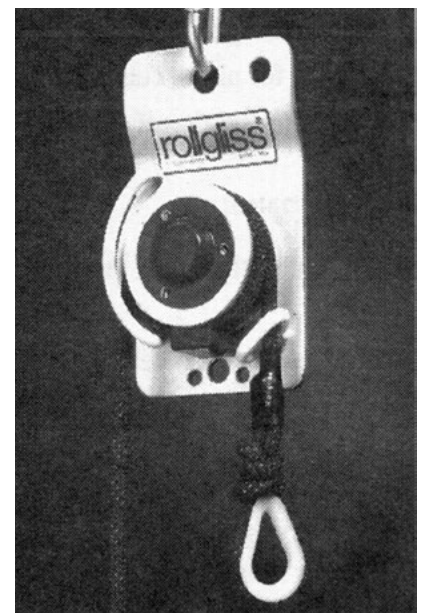
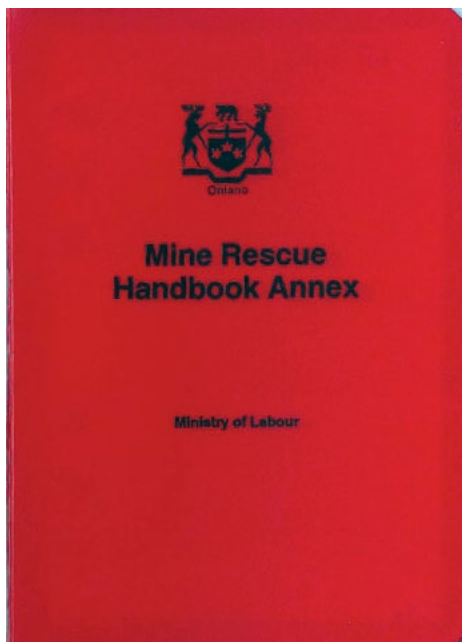
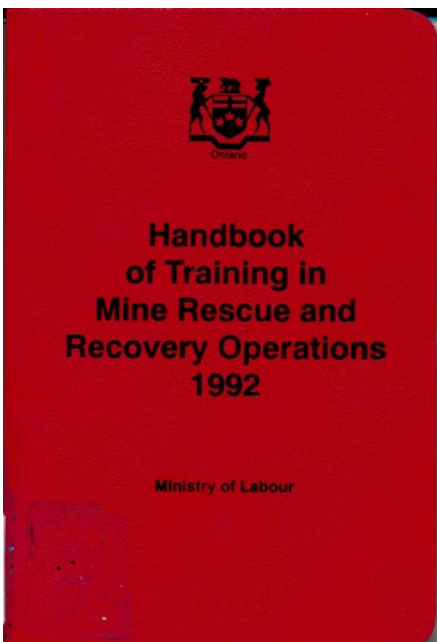
- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Elliot Lake (1958-1998)
- Onaping (1968-Present)
- Algoma
in Manitouwadge (1977-1982)
(1987-)
- Delaware (1989-Present)



Timmins artist and Kidd Creek miner Pete Roy carved the new Percy C. Smith Memorial Trophy for the winners of the Timmins District competition - 1991



Falconbridge Ltd., Onaping/Craig Mines, left, and Barrick Gold, Holt-McDermott Mine rescue teams achieved the unexpected, tying for the Provincial Mine Rescue Championship - 1998. That year the event was held for the first (and only time) in Wawa. Kirkland Lake and Marathon held their first provincials in 1994 and 1995, respectively. It returned to Marathon in 2011, and Kirkland Lake in 2018.



The 1992 Mine Rescue Handbook, left, a 200-page, soft cover edition, was supplemented by the slightly larger, but thinner Mine Rescue Handbook Annex, a loose-page, plastic binder, which contained more up-to-date details on special equipment being acquired by Ontario Mine Rescue, such as the Rollgliss Rope Rescue System



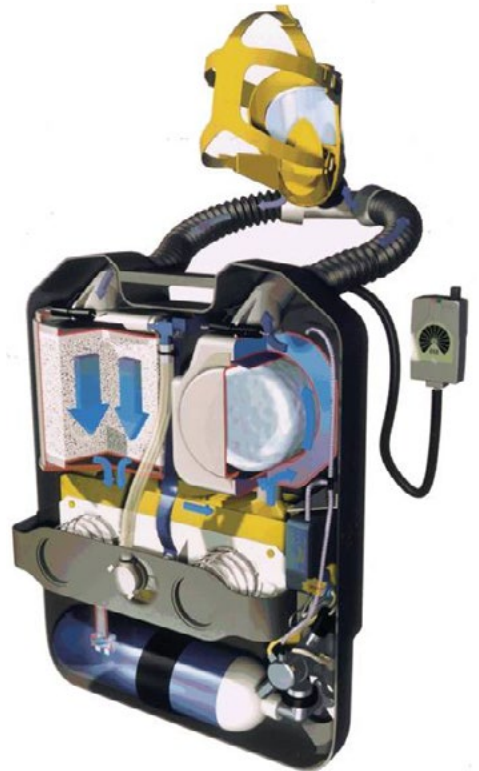
1999-2009

Mine Rescue Stations

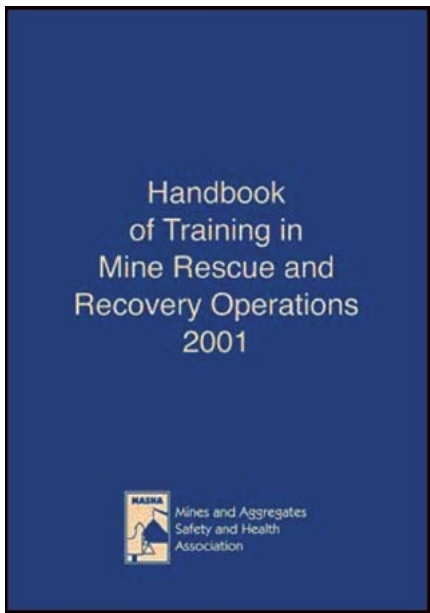
- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Onaping (1968-Present)
- Algoma
in Manitouwadge (1977-1982)
(1987-2006)
- in Williams Mine (2006-)
- Thunder Bay (1982-1987)
(2004-Present)
- Delaware (1989-Present)



Falconbridge's Christine Bertoli became the first woman to compete as vice-captain in a Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, coincidentally, the first at an underground venue (Fecunis Mine) - 2004



The Dräger BG4 gradually replaced the Dräger BG174 as OMR's principal breathing apparatus



First Mine Rescue Handbook published under the Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association - 2001



Xstrata Nickel's Fraser/Thayer Lindsley mine rescue team, from left, Dale Kinnonen, Greg Nadeau, Terry Dubois, Pierre Coderre, Cliff Poirier, Joe Hinich, Dave Lachance, and Luc Lalonde competed at the 6th International Mines Rescue Competition in Reno, Nevada - 2008



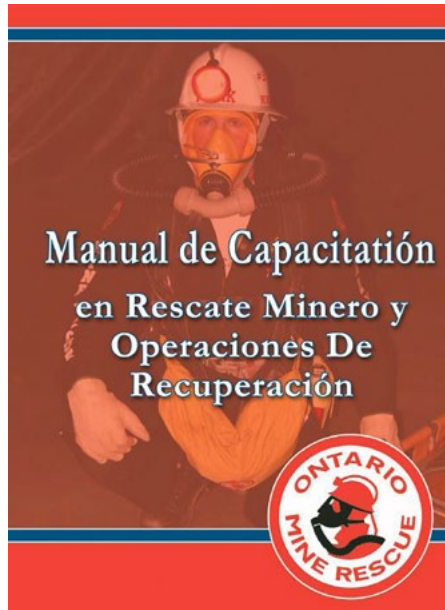
OMR launched online Mine Gases and Mine Gas Hazard training modules, left, for mine rescue trainees - 2007, and its more successful website, above, with links to competition photos, The Link Line and more - 2008



2009-2019

Mine Rescue Stations

- Timmins (1929-Present)
- Sudbury (1930-Present)
- Kirkland Lake (1931-Present)
- Red Lake (1948-Present)
- Onaping (1968-Present)
- Algoma (1987-2006)
- in Manitouwadge (1977-1982)
- in Williams Mine (2006-2018)
- in Wawa (2017-Present)
- Thunder Bay (1982-1987)
- (2004-Present)
- Delaware (1989-Present)



The Spanish edition of the Mine Rescue Handbook - 2014



Volunteers were recorded during competitions in a study on team dynamics under stress - 2012-2014



St. Andrew Goldfield's Lynne Bouchard became the first woman to compete as captain in a provincial mine rescue competition - 2014



OMR transitioned from cargo vans to 4WD pickups for improved handling, and to better deal with accumulated mileage, poor weather, rough road conditions and terrain - 2015



Ron, left, Mike and Aaron Boutet were one of seven OMR families featured in Drägerman Stories, a series of videos by Dräger Safety - 2018



Bryan Wilson was one of seven presenters with an OMR connection at the 2013 International Mines Rescue Body Conference (IMRB2013) in Niagara Falls



Kirkland Lake Gold earned gold hard hats and a world title at the 2016 International Mines Rescue Competition (IMRC2016), hosted for the first time in Canada (Sudbury).

ONTARIO MINE RESCUE STAFF

Past & Present

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Tom Fee
Percy Smith
John Lang
Archie Graham
Gerry Wilson
George McPhail
Charlie Culbert
Harry Moorhouse
Ron Eveson
John Hallows
John Peacock
Paul Tikkanen
Jack Armstrong
Sandy Wilson
Len Groom
John Guthrie
Art Russell
Len Kutchav
Warren Kerr
Jack Wallgren
Joe MacInnis
Isabella Caron



Ken Pierce
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Charlie Burton
Malcolm Smith
John Hagan
Greg Hobson
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Bruce Hall
Pete Lefebvre
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Penny Pagan
Denis Leduc
Ted Hanley
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Dan Rulli
Mike Krell
Shawn Shail
Jason Leger
Neil Thompson
Dan Davidson
Gorden Sullivan
Jeff Farquharson
Scott Gillett
Ted Greenwood
Matt VandenHeuvel

Impact of volunteers extensive & appreciated

Continued from Page 1

A mine emergency operation “is not a drill. This is not a reportable fire that is extinguished in the shop. This is not a false alarm.

“These are the operations where the mine rescue team was activated for fire, gas contamination, non-fire emergencies, entrapment, and so on.”

And though the numbers have gone down, “the severity doesn’t disappear,” Hanley said. “The potential for a catastrophic event is still there even though they (the events) become infrequent.”

OMR’s 900 volunteers, who receive about 60,000 worker hours of training annually, constitute about four per cent of the 22,000

workers employed by mines in Ontario, he said.

“Ninety-eight per cent of their (work) time goes to production. Only about two per cent of their time is set aside for emergency response training.”

But the impact of OMR and its volunteers in mining is extensive, Hanley said, noting he stopped counting at 120 the number of the more than 300 conference participants with a connection to mine rescue.

“You don’t feel like you’re connected to that 90 years of history but you are, even if you just took a supervisory course and never said another word about mine rescue, that knowledge has gone with you.

“And we appreciate it.”



ABOUT THE ONTARIO MINE RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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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.

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