

The Transporter



ISSUE 62 - September 2006
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING *Completion*

Highway is completed; celebration enjoyed by all

With the highway system from the NWT-Alberta border to Hay River and Yellowknife completed it was time to celebrate.

People from Yellowknife and across the North gathered at the Folk on the Rocks site in Yellowknife on Sept. 9 to mark the completion of a project that was 23 years in the making.

The event began with a barbecue and music from Moses Butt, Gerry Pye, Richard Lafferty and friends. Later there were speeches, a plaque unveiling and the unveiling of the Department of Transportation's commemorative mural. The mural, painted by Sandy Craig and Jen Walden, depicts the completed highway.

Informative games and activities were very popular with children and photos of the old highway and antique construction equipment were on display.

"This government and others that preceded it firmly believed that completing the highway was an essential measure to protect the lives and property of travellers and to promote economic prosperity for the territory," said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod.

Reconstruction and paving of the highway from the NWT-Alberta border to Hay River and Yellowknife started in October 1983 and was



Gerry Pye, Moses Butt and DOT's own Richard Lafferty entertain the crowd at Paving the Way.

finished this July when the last 12-kilometre section of unpaved road between Frank's Channel and Yellowknife was chip sealed.

This final stretch had become infamous for its many curves and constantly changing conditions, from washboard sections and potholes to mud and loose gravel, that caused rock chips in windshields.

Now, the realigned and resurfaced road has about one third as many curves, down to 40 from 124, making

it safer to travel for everyone.

"As someone who frequently travels Highway 3, it's now a pleasure to drive on a road that is wider, straighter and dust-free," said Mr. McLeod.

The highlight of the afternoon was a procession of classic cars along the highway breaking through a banner to symbolize the official opening of the completed highway.

Approximately 600-1000 people attended the event.

History of the Highway

1945
Federal and Alberta governments reach an agreement to proceed with improving construction of old 'cat train' tracks into an all-weather road through the North from Grimshaw to the south shore of Great Slave Lake.

1948
Highway route from Grimshaw to Hay River is completed.

1959
John and Janet Anderson-Thomson complete the first recorded trip by private automobile on the highway system from the NWT-Alberta border to Yellowknife before it was finished.

1983-1990
Highway 1, the Mackenzie Highway, from the Alberta border to Enterprise, is reconstructed.

1998
Reconstruction of Highway 3 between Frank's Channel and Yellowknife begins.

2003
Governments of Canada and NWT announce \$130 million in funding for the improvement of northern transportation infrastructure through the Corridors for Canada program. The \$28 million designated for Highway 3 allowed reconstruction to be completed.

2006
The last stretch of Highway 3, between Frank's Channel and Yellowknife, is completed. This section of road completes the last portion of the core National Highway System which spans 27,000 kilometres.



Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod (right) and Edmonton MP Mike Lake, representing Lawrence Cannon, federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, unveil a plaque commemorating the highway completion.



The first of a group of classic cars breaks through a banner on Highway 3 to officially open the completed highway.

SAFETY TIP 10 tips to prevent Repetitive Strain Injury

Safety Tip is brought to you by Occupational Health & Safety

Tip 1: KEEP YOUR WRIST STRAIGHT

Tip 2: KEEP YOUR FOREARM PARALLEL TO THE FLOOR

Tip 3: DON'T REST YOUR WRIST WHILE YOU TYPE

Tip 4: MOVE YOUR WHOLE ARM

Tip 5: AVOID TYPING WITH THUMBS AND PINKIES UPRAISED

Tip 6: USE LIGHT TOUCH

Tip 7: KEEP YOUR FINGERNAILS SHORT

Tip 8: USE THE SAME PRINCIPLES WHEN USING A MOUSE

Tip 9: BUILD ENDURANCE BY PACING YOURSELF

Tip 10: SLOW DOWN AND DO NOT OVERDO IT

Daryl Green retires after 27 years with GNWT

Daryl Green started with the GNWT in 1976 with the now defunct Department of Government Services. In 1981, Daryl left the North hoping to escape to milder climates. He never made it.

Instead he was recently found packing up his Yellowknife office, the last of many he has filled in his 27-year tenure with the GNWT.

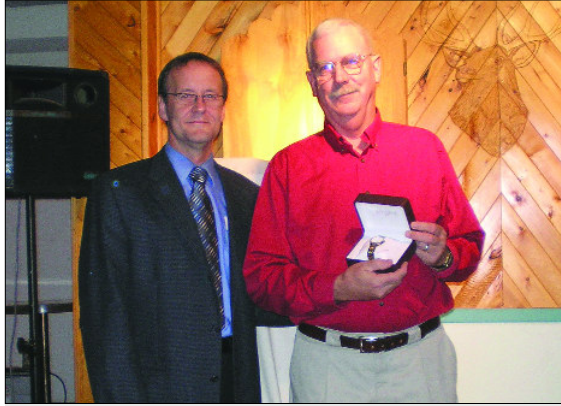
"That's my last project right there," says Green as he points to a file at least six inches thick.

There are no labels reading In or Out box, but by the smile on Daryl's face you can tell which one this project is sitting in.

His career with the GNWT started in October, 1976 when at the brisk, young age of 32 he accepted his first position with the GNWT.

Since the late 70's, Daryl has filled at least six government positions in four departments.

In 1994, when Daryl



Daniel Auger (left), Assistant Deputy Minister, presents Daryl Green with a retirement gift at a gathering honoring his career.

moved from Manager of Purchasing at the Department of Government Services to Public Works and Services Advisor, he witnessed a period of restructuring of GNWT departments and survived what he described as "lots of lay-offs."

After eight fulfilling years, Daryl wanted a change and moved to a new office and a new position at the Department of Transportation.

That office was filled with brown boxes and new

excitement as Daryl detailed his plans for retirement.

"I'm still on contract with the Purchasing Management Association of Canada for one year," he says. "After that, who knows. I am just going to relax; go to Europe next fall."

For Daryl and his wife the only other plan they have is to get away from the cold northern winters.

"We might sell the house in the fall; go somewhere else where the winter isn't as bad."

Hay River volunteers make live exercise a success



Benjamin Craft, age 4, and his family volunteered in the Hay River Airport exercise

Thirty people volunteered their time from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hay River on Sept. 9 to make their airport safer.

The volunteers all acted very professionally, said Hay River Airport Manager, Kelly O'Connor.

The scenario was acted out as if two aircraft had collided mid air just outside Hay River over

Great Slave Lake.

Emergency response crews were quick to act and improved greatly upon the last exercise three years ago, said Kelly.

"We had all of the victims triaged and to the hospital twice as quickly," said Kelly.

After the exercise Hay River DOT staff hosted a barbecue for all of the volunteers.

One of our own aims at RCMP career



July 4, 2006 was a proud day for all DOT Fort Simpson staff as one of their own, April Bell, was officially sworn in as a Special Constable with the Fort Simpson detachment of the RCMP.

April has been a model member of the Fort Simpson community, volunteering time to develop female hockey programs in the region.

April has now left DOT to attend the Aboriginal Policing program at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton, Alberta.

DM's Dues

This month I would like to acknowledge the following employees for their hard work and contributions:

Bob Kelly, Larry Purcka, Mike Borden, Adrienne Cartwright, Bobby-Jo Walsh, Rod Hildebrandt and David Maguire for organizing *Paving the Way: A Celebration of Completion*. Their hard work and dedication in arranging this celebration led to an enjoyable afternoon for Department of Transportation staff and the public. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day of the event to make this possible.

All of the staff and volunteers who participated in the live exercise in Hay River on September 9. The professional attitude and approach of these individuals in these live scenarios today will make our northern airports better prepared and safer tomorrow.



Practice makes perfect in reducing crashes



A DOT employee approaches the ditch and practices an off-road recovery at a controlled site on Highway 4.

AMA driving courses in ditch entry, ditch recovery and night time driving took place in Yellowknife and Hay river this past month, giving Department of Transportation employees a lesson in hair-raising driving situations.

The courses took place Sept. 5-29, and taught drivers from Public Works and Services and DOT safe practices for dangerous driving situations.

"Ditch entry scenarios

are aimed at preparing drivers for a situation where they might be in a potential head-on crash," said AMA driver training instructor, Marg DerFong. "The driver might be asleep at the wheel, or intoxicated."

The courses covered safe ditch entry, off-road recovery and night driving.

The next AMA courses will be taking place in February, 2007 and will cover winter driving.

HUMAN RESOURCE Updates

Farewell

Kevin P. Boyle
Nathaniel Day
Melanie Pond
Donna Lee Taylor
April E. Bell
Garry Rooke

Airport & Marine Electrician
Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentice
Director's Secretary
Finance and Admin Coordinator
Licensing and Data Entry Clerk
Auto and Light Equipment Mechanic

Inuvik
Inuvik
Yellowknife
Yellowknife
Fort Simpson
Hay River

Amateur or professional, send your Transportation related photos along with a brief description to *The Transporter*. Each month the best photo may be featured in *The Transporter*

Know of any new and exciting story ideas? Contact: David Maguire, Communications Coordinator, DOT: david_maguire@gov.nt.ca@gov.nt.ca, Tel: (867) 873-7813 Fax: (867) 873-0363



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