

# The Transporter



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Left to right: Minister of Transportation, Michael McLeod, Mark Simmons, Jeremy Studney, Stacy Reid, Gary Reid, Samantha Merritt, Darrow Andrews, Tom Ruth, Chad Blewett, Jason Cutten and Emsley Nasogaluak

## \$40,000 in Aviation Bursaries Awarded

Eight N.W.T students with their sights set on a future in aviation got a big career boost recently with the help of the Aviation Career Development Program. The students- six from Yellowknife and one each from Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk- received \$5,000 bursaries during presentation ceremonies in Yellowknife on July 8.

The bursary program, in its fourth year, was created by the Department of Transportation, with co-sponsorship from Canadian North and support from the Northern Air Transport Association (NATA).

The program was established to encourage and assist students to get into the aviation industry, in the air or on the ground. Many of the recipients aspire to become either commercial pilots or aircraft maintenance engineers. However, recipient Samantha Merritt, a commercial pilot at Yellowknife's Air Tindi, elected to use the bursary to obtain a Bachelor's of Public Administration. Chad Blewett, also a

2003 bursary recipient, qualified again this year for some additional financial support.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod participated in the presentation ceremonies, along with Canadian North president Tom Ruth and Gary Reid, who represented NATA.

"In the NWT alone, the aviation industry provides jobs for close to 2,000 people, directly or indirectly," says Minister McLeod. "And it's only going to get bigger as our economy continues to expand because of resource exploration and development."

So far, the Department of Transportation, along with the support of Canadian North, has invested \$160,000 in northern students directly through these bursaries.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone involved," says Minister McLeod.

## Emergency Training in Tuktoyaktuk

Ernest Pokiak (below left), Regional Airport Manager in Tuktoyaktuk, reviews information coming into the community's Emergency Operations Centre during a live emergency exercise the Department of Transportation staged in Tuktoyaktuk in June. Claude Gervais (below right), Assistant Fire Marshal for the Inuvik Region, evaluates how community firefighters extinguish a fire that was set to simulate a crash site. The exercise, organized by the Airports Division, tested the emergency response plans of the airport, the community and various emergency response agencies. The scenario for the exercise involved a mid-air collision at the airport between a helicopter and a small aircraft that resulted in deaths and injuries and contamination of the community's water reservoir by the helicopter. The Airports Division conducts similar exercises at airports across the NWT. The next one is scheduled for Norman Wells on September 9.



### Safety Tip:



#### Follow the Rules of the Road

**Know your driving ABCs: Always Be Careful**

**Avoid Speeding- it increases your chances of not arriving at all**

**Expect other drivers to do the unexpected**

## Pickering becomes CVSA certified

The economic boom happening in the Northwest Territories has brought with it a huge increase in the number of trucks traveling highways and winter roads that were meant to withstand smaller traffic volumes. The Department of Transportation's Highway Patrol Officers make sure these commercial vehicles are up to code and following the rules of the road on a daily basis.

"An overweight vehicle can do millions of dollars in damage (to a highway) in a matter of two kilometers," says HOP Jim Pickering.

In July, Jim completed the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Level I certification, the highest level of certification attainable. The internationally recognized course provides Highway Patrol Officers with the necessary technical skills to ensure that commercial vehicles are operating within the law. Although, Jim is currently the only CVSA certified officer in the NWT, about a dozen more candidates plan to follow in his footsteps.

"The presence of the program protects highway users and trucking companies," explains Michael Conway, the North Slave's Regional Superintendent.

The CVSA certification program is a win-win situation for everyone concerned. Not only are officers like Jim able to protect the public from the possibility of faulty air brakes and other mechanical problems, and taxpayers



Michael Conway (right) presents Jim Pickering with his Level I CVSA certification.

and government from millions of dollars in damage to northern roadways, but their vigilance also ultimately benefits truckers in more than one way. Commercial vehicles that have been inspected get a CVSA sticker verifying that fact. Trucks that receive that certification don't have to be checked again until the sticker expires three months later.

These truckers therefore save time at southern checkpoints and, in a business where time is money, they save money too.

There was a time when all HPOs doing duty on NWT highways were CVSA certified.

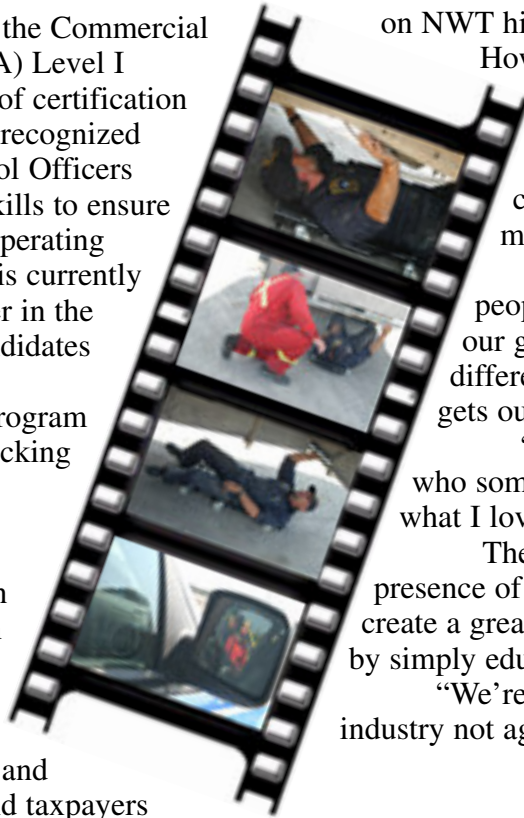
However, their certifications expired long ago. To maintain current certificates, officers must complete a total of 30 inspections a year. But, harsh polar conditions and isolated locations have made this difficult.

"You're supposed to have two people perform the check, but because of our geographical location we do things differently up here," says Jim. "The driver gets out of the vehicle and helps."

"Nothing is ever the same," says Jim, who sometimes puts in long workdays. "That's what I love about this job."

The longtime northerner hopes that the presence of this type of program in the NWT will create a greater awareness in the trucking industry by simply educating drivers.

"We're trying to work with the trucking industry not against them," he says.



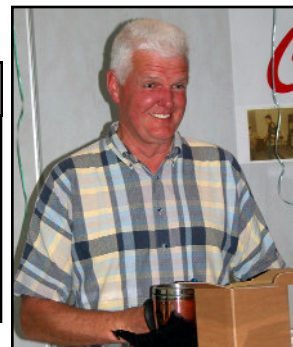
## CBC Contest Winner Takes the Helm



Grant MacKenzie (left), captain of the Merv Hardie, relaxes with George Mandeville, in the wheelhouse of the ferry after making a crossing of the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence on June 30 with George at the helm. George, a Yellowknife resident, earned the rank of "Captain for a Day" by winning a contest sponsored by CBC Radio's Trail's End program. He came closest to guessing the day the Merv Hardie resumed seasonal operations last spring. The contest, supported by the Department of Transportation, drew people to the department's website to get information on possible dates. George's experience on the ferry's bridge formed part of the remote broadcast of the afternoon show that CBC did from the ferry.

## JOHN BOWEN RETIRES

John Bowen, Head Structures, enjoys his retirement bash at the DND after 34 years of service to northern transportation. Kevin McLeod, Director, Highways, was the emcee of the event and had guests roaring with laughter during stories of Bowen's yachting adventures and the old days with DOT Highways Division. We wish John the best of luck on the West Coast.



## HR UPDATES

### Welcome...

Addy Loney, Compensation Officer  
Bonnie Jean Tees-Heisler, Contracts  
Elaine Lawrence, Directorate

### Farwell...

Holly Pettis	Gloria Foers
Mike Elgie	Leo Reedyk
John Bowen	Lori Gresl
Joanie Piwowar	