

The Transporter

ISSUE 54 - MARCH / APRIL 2005
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



TRANSPORTATION *in Motion*

Inuvik region upgrades weigh scale



Harris Beaulieu, Manager, Road Licensing and Safety for the Inuvik region is proud of the region's new weigh scale building.

A new building designed and equipped for comfort and efficiency has been a welcome improvement for staff who work at the Inuvik region weigh scale. The previous facility, an ATCO trailer located between the Inuvik Airport and the town centre, was replaced by a larger building with added features. The appearance of the new weigh scale reflects the look and feel of its southern counterpart in Enterprise.

"We are in a much more comfortable and organized atmosphere," says Harris Beaulieu, Regional Manager, Road Licensing and Safety Division.

The new building, which was completed in August 2004, is larger. It has an added staff changing room, public washroom and kitchen facilities, and many other features of a modern building. The weigh scale building is now handicapped accessible, with a ramp in addition

to stairs, and a large public service area to accommodate more visitors. There's also a debit machine on the premises and staff are able to accept all forms of payment.

Other features of the building help weigh scale operators perform their duties with increased comfort and efficiency.

"A thin layer of copper on the windows allows the ultraviolet light to penetrate directly

through in the winter to allow heat to come in," explains Harris. "And, during the summer, the light is allowed in horizontally, which keeps the inside cool without blocking the light."

The windows also have transparent polarized blinds that keep out sun glare and are vandal-proofed with a layer of Plexiglas on the outside. In addition, the building's design was engineered so that weigh scale employees could view a vehicle and its licence plate while seated. This allows employees to remain seated at their computer and, in turn, they are able to serve the public more efficiently.

"The oil and gas exploration has increased truck traffic significantly," says Harris. He says many of the improvements found in the new facility have allowed staff to keep up with the increased traffic movement in the area.

"We're a small operation, but a highly efficient one," says Harris.



The Inuvik region weigh scale sits between the Inuvik Airport and the town centre along Highway 8. Construction was completed in August 2004.

WORKING *Together*

Photos below courtesy of Carole Tetlow, Public Works and Services



A driver practices steering around pylons on Great Slave Lake.

DOT continues proactive driver training

Safe driving is not something that happens only in theory for the Department of Transportation. For 12 years, DOT employees have had the opportunity to take driving courses designed for the roads and weather conditions of the Northwest Territories. Now, over 600 DOT employees have risen to the challenge of increasing their knowledge of proactive driving responses and testing their road skills on closed courses.

In 1992, the cost of repairing accident-damaged vehicles was at an all-time high. "The costs were going through the roof," said Occupational Health and Safety Program Coordinator, Earle Gaetz. Prior to implementation of proactive defensive driving courses, the department's annual expenditures for vehicle repairs due to motor vehicle accidents exceeded \$70,000.

Peter Vician, Director of Highways at the time, gave Earle the responsibility of finding a way to decrease the number of motor vehicle accidents within the department. Following many consultations, the department teamed up with the Alberta Motor Association (AMA) to help DOT employees acquire proactive defensive driving skills. In 1993, the Department of Transportation hosted its first three-day winter driving training session.

Four years ago, Bruce Rattray, Deputy Minister of Public Works and Services (PWS) and former ADM at DOT, introduced his colleagues to the driving courses. Since, then about 60 PWS employees have increased their road skills.

Earle believes that one of the successes of the program is that it's offered to everyone, regardless of their job description.

"We're all drivers," says Earle. "Whether our employees are driving during work hours or on their own time we want them to have the skills to stay safe."

Any department can take part in the courses. So far, PWS and even Yellowknife's Municipal Enforcement officers have welcomed the opportunity to practice their winter driving skills with DOT.

"One of our values says that everything we do is worth doing well," says Lynn Cook, Director of Corporate Services. "That includes the way we drive DOT vehicles. What we learn in driver training helps us to work in a way that is safe for ourselves and the public."

Accidents and their costs have decreased significantly in the past dozen years. After the first year DOT was training employees, the cost of vehicle repairs due to accidents went from \$70,000 to \$50,000. During the second year of the courses the costs plummeted again all the way to \$20,000, where it has remained fairly steady for the past decade.

In addition to the winter driving course, the department also offers a gravel driving course, a night driving course which features ditch entry and off-road recovery, and Planning Ahead, a course which educates drivers on the adverse effects of driving while impaired.



An Arctic fox checks out the action on the closed course during the driver training.



SAFETY *Tip*

Safety Tip is brought to you by the Yellowknife Airport Fire Department

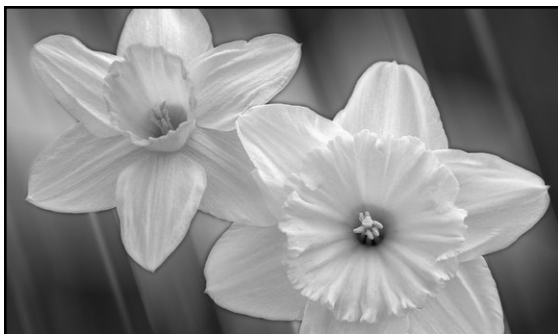


Tips to keep your family safe from fire and injuries:

- Remove all combustible materials from your basement or attic.
- Have furnaces and fireplaces checked on a regular basis by qualified professionals.
- When storing paints, thinners, and cleaners in the garage or workshop ensure that they are in approved containers and away from ignition sources.
- Keep garages and workshops clean.
- Have an appropriately rated fire extinguisher installed in your home and know how to use it.
- Ensure that doors are not blocked. In the event of an emergency, you may need any exit as an escape route.

"Minds are like parachutes. They only work when they are open."
- unknown

CELEBRATING *Us*



DOT raises money for cancer

This year, DOT employees in Yellowknife raised \$585 for the Canadian Cancer Society by purchasing daffodils. Alice Cowan has coordinated this activity for the past six years and estimates that DOT has raised almost \$3,500 for the Canadian Cancer Society in the Northwest Territories. She extends special thanks to all administrative assistants who help fund raise every year and to all the generous people who contribute to cancer education in the North. 🇨🇦



Bill Prodrumidis and Bernice Furlong receive Long Service Awards

During a recent trip to Inuvik, Daniel Auger, Assistant Deputy Minister, presented Bill Prodrumidis, Marine Manager, and Bernice Furlong, Administrative Assistant, with their Long Service Awards. Both Bill and Bernice have worked with the Department of Transportation for 10 years. 🇨🇦

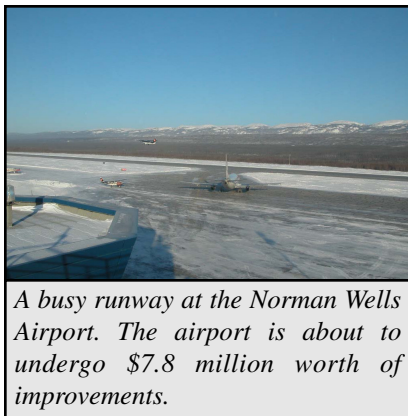


Mark and Gail take on national curlers

Recently, two DOT employees moved to the national stage to demonstrate their skills at throwing a different kind of rock than the ones we are used to working with on our highways. Gail Daniels and Mark Whitehead took part in two separate national curling championships during March. Gail, a Finance Officer, did an excellent job at this year's Senior's Curling Championships in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The team beat out the Yukon Women's Territorial team for a place at the bonspiel and held on to first place for the first three days. Gail says the team has high hopes for next year's bonspiel which will be held in PEI. Mark, Design and Construction Project Technician, took part in this year's Tim Hortons Brier in Edmonton, AB. As an avid curler, Mark relished at the sight of the stadium packed with over 15,000 fans and was also asked by Alberta pro curler, Randy Ferby, to sweep for him during the pre-event Ford Hot Shots skills contest. 🇨🇦



Top left: Mark Whitehead takes a shot at the Brier.
Bottom left: Proud colleagues of Gail Daniels decorated her desk before she returned from the Senior's Curling Championships.



A busy runway at the Norman Wells Airport. The airport is about to undergo \$7.8 million worth of improvements.

\$7.8 million in ACAP funding for Norman Wells Airport

Major airside improvements worth \$7.8 million are in the works for Norman Wells Airport thanks to funding the Department of Transportation has received from Transport Canada's Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP).

Transport Canada recently announced that the department would receive almost \$7 million to rehabilitate the runway and increase the size of the apron so it can safely accommodate more aircraft. The GNWT will also be contributing an estimated \$800,000 to rehabilitate Taxiway "Charlie" and improve airside service roads.

Established in 1995, the Airports Capital Assistance Program helps eligible airports by financing capital projects related to safety, asset protection and operating cost reduction. In order to be eligible for funding consideration, an airport must have year-round, regularly scheduled passenger service and handle a minimum of 1,000 passengers annually, meet Transport Canada certification standards and not be owned by the Government of Canada.

Transport Minister Jean Lapierre recently announced that ACAP has been extended to 2010 with annual funding of \$38 million a year, for a total of \$190 million.

ACAP funding of \$310,000 has been also approved for construction of two relocated drainage channels at Yellowknife Airport. The GNWT is expected to add \$54,000 to complete

that project.

The Norman Wells project comes as the airport prepares for the anticipated increase in traffic leading up to and during construction of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project. The airport has already experienced a significant increase in the number of aircraft operations in the last several years as oil and gas exploration increased in the Sahtu. In 2003, the latest year for which statistics are available, traffic grew by 22 per cent over the previous year.

The ACAP funding announcement was welcome news to Daniel Michaud, District Manager for Sahtu airports. He says repaving the runway and other airside improvements are badly needed to maintain high safety standards.

"We want to get this work done in advance of the start of work on the pipeline," he says. "This type of project would be harder to do once pipeline related traffic really starts."

Bill Chapple, Project Manager with the Airports Division, says the two-year project will be put out to tender on April 18 and will close the second week in May. He says work this year will consist of crushing gravel and completing subgrade work, including hauling material and expanding the apron embankment. In 2006, work will consist of milling operations and application of asphalt concrete to airside surfaces.

He says he expects the project will also create jobs for people in the Sahtu region. 🇨🇦



Joe Cooke, Project Technician, is out on the job in one of the many communities he serves.

Joe Cooke goes above and beyond to help community of Colville Lake

One DOT employee recently decided to share a little DOT style success with Colville Lake. Joe Cooke, Project Technician with the Inuvik region, provided technical support to Colville Lake's band to help them complete their community road. Joe's commitment to his community and his dedication to his job meant that Colville Lake did not have to hire an outside contractor to do the job. And, as the work was completed locally, the band redirected the much-needed funds to other community programs. Joe's highway transportation career began in 1965. As an employee of Transport Canada, Joe had a hands-on role in building the Mackenzie and Liard highways. Joe has been a Project Technician since 1995. 🇨🇦

HUMAN RESOURCE *Updates*

Belated Welcome to...

Diane Larkin- Finance Clerk/ Administrative Assistant, Fort Simpson

Stephanie Lewis- Driver Medical Assesment Officer, Road Licensing and Safety, Yellowknife

Adam Binder- Motor Vehicles Services Coordinator, Road Licensing and Safety, Inuvik

Stephanie Normandin- Finance and Administration Clerk, Airports, Yellowknife

Welcome...

Margo McMinn- Administrative Assistant, Directorate, Yellowknife

Deanna Tupik- Program Records Administrator, Road Licensing and Safety, Yellowknife

Jay Butler- Systems Officer, Airports, Yellowknife

Kelly Joy- Administrative Assistant, Policy and Planning, Yellowknife

Welcome...

John Himmelman- Manager, Finance & Administration, North Slave Region, Yellowknife

Transfer...

Bobbi-Jo Walsh- Administrative Assistant, transfer from Road Licensing and Safety to North Slave Regional Office, Yellowknife



Check out *The Transporter* at:
www.dot.gov.nt.ca

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**"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."
- Henry Ford**