



Produced by the BC Road Builders  
& Heavy Construction Association  
for its members and industry partners

# The Voice

WINTER /  
SPRING 2022



## Upcoming Events

**2022 IVAN HANCHARD  
CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Northview Golf & Country Club  
Surrey, BC, May 13, 2022

**2022 FALL CONFERENCE**  
Delta Hotels by Marriott Grand  
Okanagan Resort, Kelowna, BC  
September 18 — 20, 2022

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## BUILDING BACK BETTER

**Over the past year the road building, highway maintenance and heavy construction industry in British Columbia was once again presented with extraordinary challenges, and it is with immense pride that I can report that our members responded to each new challenge with fortitude and dedication.**

In 2021 our members responded not only to the impact of another year of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also extreme weather events with widespread impact across the province, from supporting affected communities through the heat dome in the summer to addressing the immense damage of the atmospheric river in November 2021. These extreme weather events and resulting damage to communities and roads produced inspiring stories of road builders coming together to support wildfire-affected communities, and in one of the most impressive accomplishments to date, working around the clock restoring essential transportation infrastructure along the Coquihalla, re-opening a key corridor for BC's supply chain in just 35 days.

Through the strenuous situations last year presented, our members have risen to the challenge and maintained our most critical mission: promoting safety and advocating for a safe resilient transportation infrastructure in the province.

The BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association have always enjoyed an excellent working relationship with our government partners, and I am pleased to report that the collaborative work our members exhibited during this weather crisis provided an opportunity to show all the importance of this working partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and other stakeholders.

As we move into a new year, the repair work on major highways and transportation infrastructure continues, with road builders playing a critical role. The impact of climate change on infrastructure in British Columbia over the last year has been profound and demonstrated beyond a doubt that it's time to invest in climate resilient transportation infrastructure throughout BC.





## 55TH AGM REVIEW & GALLERY

After a two year hiatus, the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association held its 55th Annual General Meeting in Victoria, December 2-4, 2021 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre.

In response to the recent extreme weather and storm damage, the AGM featured the Building the Road to Recovery summit on creating a path forward for repairing the significant major infrastructure damage in the province.

The conference weekend featured a Leaders' Luncheon and the Contractors Awards Luncheon, where the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognized our industry's leaders in project delivery, safety and community service.



# CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## 2020

### Workplace Health & Safety

Winner: Lafarge Canada Inc.

Project: Red perimeter lighting system and ILLUMAGEAR Halo lamps

### Bridges and Structures

Winner: Dorosh Construction Ltd.

Project: Carolin Bridge Deck Renewal

### Grading

Winner: Copcan Civil Ltd.

Project: Highway 93/95 Radium Intersection Improvements

### Paving

Winner: All Roads Construction Ltd.

Project: Asphalt Resurfacing – Highway 1: Willingdon to Burnaby

### Community Service

Winner: Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Vanderhoof) Ltd.

### Road & Bridge Maintenance

Winner: Dawson Road Maintenance Ltd.

Location: Service Area 16 – South Cariboo

## 2021

### Workplace Health & Safety

Winner: NorLand Limited

Project: Online Training Portal

### Bridges and Structures

Winner: Coquitlam Ridge Constructors Ltd.

Project: Cortiana Bridge

### Grading

Winner: Lafarge Canada Inc.

Project: Highway 1 Lower Lynn Creek Community

### Paving

Winner: Dawson Construction

Project: Highway 97 Campbell Road to 100 Mile House and Begg Road to Enterprise Road Intermittent Resurfacing

### Community Service

Winner: Mainroad Lower Mainland Contracting LP

### Road & Bridge Maintenance

Winner: Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Nicola) Ltd.

Location: Service Area 14, Nicola



*2021 Community Service Award winners collecting their award:*

*Mainroad Lower Mainland Contracting LP*



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 AGM SPONSORS!



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## New Members: Summer to Fall 2021

- Bidadoo
- CIF Composites
- Gitanyow Band
- Global Rope Access
- HCSS
- Luxton Construction
- MSE Precast Ltd.
- Pacific Rim Fabrication Ltd

## New Members: Fall 2021 onwards

- 3D Geomatics
- Formula Contractors Ltd.
- Gear Equipment Inc.
- Liberty Mutual Canada
- Momenta Holdings Group Ltd.
- Poschner Construction
- Sunbelt Rentals of Canada Inc
- AIRPLUS Industrial Corp
- Con-Ex Civil Contractors Ltd.
- GPM Civil Contracting Inc.
- Hazelwood Construction Services Inc.
- ICC Distribution Group
- Metric Civil Contractors Ltd.
- Optimum Equipment Solutions
- Paradox Access Solutions
- Skwlax Resource Management
- Valmont West Coast Engineering





**This year the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association Board had the pleasure of welcoming President and CEO of Emil Anderson Group Robert Hasell as newly elected Chair of the Board.**

For Robert, road building runs in the family. Emil Anderson (EA) is a fourth generation family-run company and a founding company of the BC Road Builders. In fact, Robert is Emil Anderson's great grandson.

He joins a long tradition of Emil Anderson employees, the fifth actually, to be elected to the position of Chair, following in the footsteps of Gil Jacobs, Bob Hasell (his father), Bill Swaine and Mike Jacobs.

Born and raised in Hope, British Columbia, Robert first entered the road building industry as a high school student starting as a general labourer. After briefly attending the University of the Fraser Valley, he went on to graduate from the University of Alberta with a degree in Civil Engineering. Robert has enjoyed a long and eventful career in the highway maintenance industry, including roles as Project Coordinator, Construction Superintendent, Project Manager, Operations Manager, General Manager, Vice President and finally President & CEO of the Emil Anderson Group.

Constructing two of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Venues is a marked highlight in his career. "We built the Bobsled / Luge track and

also the K95 and K125 ski jumps, something we are very proud of," says Robert.

Another notable highlight is the EA team's efforts in response to the flooding in November 2021. "Building an incredible team that works collaboratively is a highlight for me. I am particularly proud of the role the Emil Anderson Team played in the restoration of the highway corridors after the recent devastating weather events."

In the future, he believes the construction of BC Highway 1 Fraser Valley Corridor will become a major priority due to traffic volumes. "The Rebuild BC program is being fast tracked and is the highest priority for the province," says Robert. "This expedited program will create good paying jobs and provide much needed economic recovery following the impacts of the pandemic."

As Chair, he looks forward to working towards the industry attracting a larger and more diverse workforce. "We connect people, we connect communities, and we are extremely essential for the economy of BC. We have great careers to offer and we will be putting lots of effort into social media campaigns and other direct methods to broadcast and improve industry awareness."

Advancing the Association and members technologically is also a key part of Robert's vision as Chair. "I want to see the industry evolve and ultimately become more sustainable. Although this is a long term initiative, we want to set an example and be industry leaders that drive positive change."

Robert has been a resident of Chilliwack, BC for the past 22 years, and in his spare time he enjoys golf, skiing and traveling with his wife Crystal, and children Bobby and Bella.

His favourite drives in the province include Kicking Horse Canyon and Vedder River Bridge in Chilliwack.



## INTRODUCING 2022 BC ROAD BUILDERS BOARD



**Peter Ashcroft**  
Mainroad Group  
Director,  
Maintenance Sector



**Glen Barker**  
Jacob Bros Construction  
Director, Municipal Relations



**Collin Blonarowitz**  
Emil Anderson Construction Inc  
Chair, Paving Committee



**Grayson Doyle**  
Peter Kiewit Sons  
Director,  
Construction Sector



**Steve Drummond**  
Capilano Highway  
Services Company  
Director, Maintenance  
Sector /CCA  
Representative



**Scott Griffin**  
Renaissance Group CPA Ltd  
Secretary/Treasurer



**Robert Hasell**  
Emil Anderson Group  
Chair



**Lyle Johnson**  
Eurovia BC Inc.  
Director, Construction Sector  
Chair, Bridge Committee



**Lincoln Kyne**  
Lafarge Canada Inc.  
Vice Chair



**Stephen Mc Neil**  
Yellowhead Road  
& Bridge, Chair,  
Maintenance Sector



**Chris Moore**  
McLean & Armstrong LLP  
Chair, Service & Supply  
Sector



**Shane O'Donnell**  
Tybo Contracting Ltd  
Chair, Construction Sector



**Paul Simpson**  
Hall Constructors  
Past Chair



**Vanessa Werden**  
Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP  
Director



**Joe Wrobel**  
JPW Earthworks  
Director, Worker Safety



### ROAD BUILDERS REBUILD THE COQUIHALLA IN 35 DAYS / AFTER THE STORM

**An unprecedented storm caused severe widespread damage to critical transportation corridors in British Columbia in November 2021. BC Highway 5 (also known as the Coquihalla), which connects BC's Interior to the Lower Mainland, was severely impacted, cutting many communities off from the rest of the province and disrupting the supply of essential goods in BC. The Coquihalla re-opened to essential traffic in record time on December 20th, 2021, just 35 days after crews began repairs – an incredible feat given the scope of the repairs.**

The original construction of the Coquihalla, which runs 205km from Hope to Kamloops, was a large-scale project completed in three phases and opening in 1986. Flooding and washouts associated with the November storm caused heavy damage to more than twenty sites along the 130km stretch between Hope and Merritt, including seven bridges where spans completely collapsed or were otherwise deemed impassable.

"We've fixed damage like this before, but never of this magnitude," said Kelly Scott, president of the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association.

Restoration work was quickly underway, led by the road maintenance contractors that maintain Highway 5, Emil Anderson Maintenance (EAM), Yellowhead Road and Bridge (YRB.) supported by Peter Kiewit Sons. EAM manages the area from Merritt to Hope, and YRB maintains from Merritt to Kamloops. Over forty local BC companies and Indigenous businesses were subcontracted to assist in repairing the highway. "We're used to seeing heavy rainfalls and the odd mudslide, but we never expected what took place overnight and continued to take place the next day," said YRB General Manager Dave Duncan of the flooding on November 15, 2021.

"Normally, these sleepy creeks don't have particularly high flows. The power of the water, trees two to three feet in diameter and boulders coming down the river was something I had never witnessed before, and then watching bridges start to fail and get undermined."

Duncan estimated that at the busiest point, YRB deployed around 150 workers on site daily with 80 - 100 pieces of heavy equipment in use at once. Crews worked 12 - 14-hour days, and due to the closure of Merritt and lack of available housing, in addition to the long days many workers commuted over an hour each way from Kamloops.

Construction crews on the Coquihalla rebuild faced the challenge of repairing the immense damage on the highway through some of the least hospitable conditions for road works, especially at that elevation.

"Normally you would be prepared to do this kind of work in spring, summer or even fall – but in the heart of winter – I don't think any crew was really prepared for it," said Duncan. "In the one-month period between the damage and opening the Coquihalla, we had a torrential rainstorm followed by freezing cold, and about two metres of snowfall. On the Coquihalla you must build things properly, and we are dealing with -20° temperatures while we are trying to achieve compaction, to properly key rock in, pour concrete, and place asphalt."

YRB crews were presented with another major challenge in sourcing materials. To stabilize structures and begin to rebuild they had to find nearby locations to produce over 100, 000 cubic metres of rock. "Normally you'd spend six months doing just that and we're doing it in six days trying to clear the site and remove the overburden. We were mobilizing drilling equipment and had to blast rock, creating brand new quarry locations," said Duncan.

EAC Vice President Colin Taylor reported being similarly stunned by the extent of the damage.

"Seeing bridges without spans or whole sections of highway that had simply disappeared, or a pipeline floating in the middle of a river—those are things you're never meant to see, and it took a while to process." Including subcontractors, EAM managed approximately 265 workers a day at the peak of the project.

Safety for the workers was top priority while managing the repairs under the time constraint. "Nothing we are doing is worth the risk of hurting anyone," said Taylor.

Communication was also a key to completing the difficult repairs. According to Taylor, establishing clear points of contact and active real-time communication with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) was crucial. "There was a lot of pressure on everyone and the best way to overcome that was to be great communicators. The Ministry stepped up to the challenge and met the industry, hour per hour. They were next level in their commitment giving clear and timely direction when decisions needed to be made."

The Coquihalla is a major conduit for essential goods and services, providing access across the province, acting as a vital connection for three major routes headed north on Highway 1, 3 and 5. With so many communities and the delivery of essential goods relying on the rapid repair of the highway, road maintenance crews and MOTI strategized ways to work as quickly as possible. Crews worked day and night for the full 35 days to open the highway in time for the holidays. "The people who build and maintain roads in BC have a reputation second to none," said Rob Fleming, the minister of transportation in an official statement on the re-opening in December. "Their response to the recent disaster has been remarkable."

On January 19th, 2022, the Coquihalla opened to regular traffic.

This piece from BCRB also appeared in *Construction Business*.





# BC STORM RECOVERY RED CROSS CAMPAIGN

In response to the severe storm of November 2021, the BC Road Builder and Heavy Construction Association partnered with the Canadian Red Cross and government to raise funds to help the Red Cross provide emergency services for people in and around affected areas as quickly as possible and provide humanitarian assistance for new needs as they arise.

The unprecedented storm resulted in flooding, landslides, mudslides, power outages, and other incidents across the South Coastal and Interior regions of the province. Road builders immediately rolled up their sleeves to begin stabilizing and repairing damage to major infrastructure, but that's not all—our members also generously donated an incredible **\$514,130** to the campaign raising funds to help those affected by the floods and extreme weather in Southern BC.

Donations made until December 24th, 2021 were matched by both levels of government. With matching funds from the Provincial and Federal governments, this brings our total to **\$1,542,390**, surpassing our goal of \$1 million.

Money raised enabled the Red Cross to carry out relief, recovery, resilience and risk reduction activities in and beyond the region at the individual and community levels.

On behalf of the Association and the Canadian Red Cross, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our members for their generous donations!



**Protecting your staff and your company's ability to recruit and retain key people is critical for companies in the road building and heavy construction industry. In an effort to support our members and their workforces, the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association has established a new partnership with ICBA Benefit Services Ltd., a subsidiary of the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA), to provide an Employee Benefit program to our members.**

The partnership was recently announced at the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association Annual General Meeting in December 2021. The Association forged this new partnership with ICBA largely due to their proven track record. ICBA Benefits manages several Association plans and are experts in such partnerships. With more than 100,000 Canadians relying on their benefits plans and decades of administration and service expertise, ICBA Benefits offers better solutions for members and industry-leading expertise, ensuring benefit plans are managed effectively.

In addition, ICBA has signed on as an official sponsor for 2022, meaning members can look forward to seeing them at our events, in our magazines and newsletters, and on our website. Over the next few months, representatives from BCRB&HCA and ICBA Benefits will be reaching out to members to discuss their current employee benefit plan situation.



# *Save the Date!*

May 13, 2022

**Northview Golf & Country Club**

Registration details to follow

## *51st Annual Ivan Hanchard Charity Golf Tournament*

*(THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM!)*





2022

# Betty Spalton SCHOLARSHIP



## BC ROAD BUILDERS & HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

The Betty Spalton scholarship fund was established in 1999 to provide financial support to individuals pursuing post-secondary education in fields associated with road building and heavy construction industries. Promoting diversity within the industries is a goal of the scholarship, applicants of all backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Betty Spalton Scholarship awards the successful candidate(s) **\$1,500** towards study and living expenses.

**Deadline: May 31st, 2022**

All application packages should be submitted to:

Betty Spalton Trust Fund  
BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association  
Suite 307, 8678 Greenall Avenue  
Burnaby BC, V5J 3M6

Electronic applications: [info@roadbuilders.bc.ca](mailto:info@roadbuilders.bc.ca)  
Subject line: "Betty Spalton Application Package"

### APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- » 250 – 500 word essay explaining your interest in the field and your career goals
- » Transcripts from any secondary and post-secondary institutions attended
- » A current resume

## About Betty Spalton



The fund honours Betty Spalton, a respected and memorable leader in highway maintenance in BC. She began her career with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, served as District Highways Manager in McBride and eventually became president of the Okanagan South (Penticton) Division of Argo Road Maintenance.

As a member of the BC Road Builders' Board of Directors, she headed the maintenance sector and was an acknowledged expert in construction, maintenance policy, standards, and business management.

Ms. Spalton's outstanding contribution to the Association and the industry is an inspiration to many.

## The Funding

Argo Maintenance and the BC Ministry of Transportation generously donated the funds to establish the scholarship. The BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association raises money for the scholarship and all administrative costs of the fund at its annual Ivan Hanchard Charity Golf Tournament.



Previous winners of the Betty Spalton Scholarship, (L-R):  
Ashley Da Silva, Emma Rose (2020 winners);  
Emily Shibata, Siera Zandvliet (2021 winners)

## Who May Apply

- » Any student entering or continuing studies leading to a career in road building, road maintenance, or heavy construction
- » Preference will be given to underrepresented groups in the industry
- » Program of study may be full-time or part-time at any BC college, university, technical or trades institute
- » Open to individuals returning to school to upgrade skills or further their education
- » All applicants must be Canadian citizens

The Betty Spalton Fund Committee will select the successful candidate(s). Winners will be contacted directly by the Association.

Contact [roxanne@roadbuilders.bc.ca](mailto:roxanne@roadbuilders.bc.ca) for additional info  
[www.roadbuilders.bc.ca](http://www.roadbuilders.bc.ca)

Our Maui 2022 conference was a great success,  
thank you to our sponsors that made it possible!

# MEET IN MAUI 2022



## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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