



Ready Mix News

A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

Winter 2003/2004

READY MIX BRIEFS

APRMCA's Associate member list holds at 73, steady by the addition of 4 new members since last spring. We welcome Bill Ross, President, **Aberdeen Paving Limited**, Bedford, NS; Anne Weir, Executive Director, **Association of Canadian Industries Recycling Coal Ash (CIRCA)**, Montreal, QC; Ross Whitcomb, P. Eng., President, **Conquest Engineering Ltd.**, Saint John, NB; Dave Boyle, Regional Manager, **Schwing America Inc.**, Caroline, AB. Thank you for your support.

APRMCA Producer membership for 2003 drops to 51 operators (73.9 per cent), now with 122 plants (86.5 per cent) providing valuable spin-offs to 94 Atlantic communities and their surrounding areas. We welcome Bill & Dennis Weir, owners of **Cabot Ready Mix Limited**, a sister company to Weir's Construction Limited, St. John's, NL as a new member. Welcome also to Michel Rodrigue, P.Eng., District Manager, **Dufferin Construction Company**, Longueuil, QC who joined and had their plant certified for the Hwy 101 concrete paving project in Ellershouse, NS this summer. Three of our smaller members were purchased by other members this year. Most recently, Atlantic Minerals Limited, Corner Brook, NL purchased the ready mix & formwork divisions of Curran & Briggs Ltd. in Summerside, PE and will rename them as **C.R.M. Summerside, a Division of C.R.M. Ready-Mix Limited**. Sackville Concrete Ltd., Halifax, NS, part of the Pennecon Group from NL, purchased a non-member in Sheet Harbour, NS and will operate in that area as **Tri-Star Concrete Services Limited**. It must also be noted that **Cabot Ready Mix**, a subsidiary of Chard's Construction Ltd., Bonavista, NL was unable to meet APRMCA's plant & facilities certification requirements, so their membership was denied and their application fee was returned.

APRMCA is the voice of the Atlantic region's ready mixed concrete industry. **APRMCA cordially invites producers who are not currently members of APRMCA to join us.** Membership criteria are straightforward: pay the annual fee based on your previous year's volume, and have your operations certified to the **APRMCA Concrete Production Facilities Certification Program**.

APRMCA has held three successful **Cold Weather Concreting — Half-Day Breakfast Seminars** in Halifax, NS, and in Corner Brook and St. John's, NL during October. Combined attendance was a modest 44, but participants received useful information on a topic that is always of interest at this time of year. Questionnaires led to a number of helpful improvements to the presentation. **Thanks are due to Colin Dickson, P. Eng.**, of CAC who developed this seminar on behalf of APRMCA as an off-the-shelf program that can be used and adapted to industry needs in future. **Thanks also to Steve Grainger, P. Eng.**, Manager of the Materials Engineering Division for Newfoundland Geosciences Ltd., who was the keynote speaker in NL. This seminar is available to members in any area, where there is interest. APRMCA will consider putting it on again this year if speakers & locations can be confirmed.

Dates to Remember:

- **November 13 -14, 2003** – APRMCA's 1.5-day seminar, **Slabs on Grade: Design, Construction & Maintenance**, held at the Westin Hotel, Halifax, NS, was organized with the generous assistance and cooperation of CAC-Atlantic. Those individuals from the region who are unable to attend the Halifax venue should know that **APRMCA is planning to host this seminar in NB & NL in the New Year**, once dates, locations and speakers can be confirmed.
- **November 25-27, 2003** – The Nova Scotia Construction Curling Association (NSCCA) will be holding its annual bonspiel at the Mayflower Curling Club. The event includes the usual opening festivities, "Draw-to-the-Lobster", Toonie Breakfasts, fabulous prizes, Awards Banquet, and plenty of curling for novice and competitive curlers alike. Call Co-Chairs Brent Conrad, 902-434-3660, or Joan Muise, 902-496-5314, for more information.
- **February 5-7, 2004 - American Concrete Institute (ACI), Atlantic Chapter Annual General Meeting** will be held at The Battery Hotel, St. John's, NL. Contact ACI-Atlantic President, Steve Grainger, P. Eng., at (709) 576-1428, or email: grainger@jacqueswhitford.com.
- **February 17-20, 2004 - The World of Concrete**, Orlando, Florida. Be sure to use a registration form coded A12, with CRMCA as the sponsor, to show your support for our local ready mixed concrete industry.
- **February 19-22, 2004 - APRMCA's 38th Annual General Meeting & Convention** at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel, Charlottetown, PE. Full technical and social program. Registration information will be available for members by early December 2003.

Producers blindsided

Sunday shopping legislation changes N.S. labour code

By John M. Connelly
Marketing Director, APRMCA

The Nova Scotia members of the Atlantic Provinces Ready Mixed Concrete Association (APRMCA) were shocked to learn that the new Sunday shopping bill, passed in the dying hours of the fall sitting of the Nova Scotia legislature on October 31, turned their labour costs upside down. APRMCA has contacted each MLA to express its strong opposition to, and concerns about, the proposed changes to the Labour Standards Code being implemented with the new Sunday shopping bill.

APRMCA members do not support these changes for several essential reasons. Operational and labour costs will be driven up significantly in their sector,

and all construction industry sectors. This will cause an overall increase in the cost of construction that will have to be paid ultimately by consumers.

There is no provision, or obvious means to accommodate, cost increases caused by this legislation to pre-existing project agreements. An obvious choice among the limited recourses APRMCA members have to compensate for this labour cost increase will be to reduce the hours of work for affected staff. It is their experience that their employees prefer to have the extra hours of work due to the seasonal nature of their business and in the construction industry, i.e. hours of work are normally reduced in the slower winter months. Another option to compensate for this labour cost increase is to

reduce the hourly wage rate for affected staff on the premise the employees will receive the same annual wage as they would have before the implementation of these changes to the Labour Standards Code.

Ready mixed concrete is a locally-manufactured product, made from locally-produced raw materials. APRMCA members' livelihoods are now threatened by competition from other construction materials such as steel and plastics, imported from jurisdictions that do not suffer the extraordinary additional labour costs placed on those product manufacturers.

These changes to the Labour Standards Code will add to Nova Scotia's existing labour shortage problem. The changes will also further promote the

underground economy, which is especially prevalent in the construction industry.

Ready mix producers were not provided with sufficient notice of these Labour Standards Code changes to adequately and properly respond to the serious negative implications they will have. The ready mix industry sector was not consulted prior to the introduction of this proposal, in spite of the fact its members' facilities are spread throughout the province and are the types of local enterprises that are very important to the communities where they are located (14 companies, 39 certified plants, in 30 different communities). They're the small businesses that government loves to talk about so favourably. Ready mix

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The StoraEnso pulp and paper mill, Port Hawkesbury, N.S. is undergoing a multi-million dollar expansion to modernize and increase its production capacity. Ted van Zutphen, co-owner of J&T van Zutphen Construction Inc., the general contractor for the largest phase of this project, took time to give a brief site tour last July. The firm's ready mix company, Ideal Concrete Ltd., will provide over 7,700 m³ of concrete for this job.

Flemming joins Order of Canada

By Lynne Wells
Contributing Writer

John George (Jack) Flemming, president of Ocean Contractors Limited, was made a member of the Order of Canada this year. Flemming joins a prestigious list of fellow Canadians recognized for their outstanding contributions to Canadian society.

Flemming is highly respected for both his business acumen and commitment to society. This mechanical engineer provided steadfast leadership to numerous educational and professional organizations, including Dalhousie University, the Canadian Construction Association and the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association. A quiet philanthropist, he helped fund youth programs and sponsor local charitable groups, such



Jack Flemming, president, Ocean Contractors Limited, is now a Member of the Order of Canada. He's a former president of both CANS and CCA, and an active supporter of the industry and numerous community service organizations. Congratulations and best wishes from APRMCA!

as Bonny Lea Farm and the Sisters of Charity.

Flemming is a native of Halifax. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering, Mechanical, from Dal-Tech in 1962. After working in the road building business for 12 years, he established his own firm Ocean Contractors Limited, specializing in asphalt, ready mixed concrete and water and sewer construction.

Flemming served as president of the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association and the Construction Association of Nova Scotia; and he served as national chair of the Canadian Construction Association.

In addition to Flemming's successful business career he has a long and distinguished involvement with his community. He's active on numerous

boards, committees and Atlantic Canadian organizations dating back more than 30 years.

Throughout his career, he has received numerous community and professional awards. He is an honorary life member of the CCA and received the Dal-Tech Alumni Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to the community and profession. He also accepted the Association of Professional Engineers Gold Award, which recognizes exceptional achievement to the practice of professional engineering, and the Mount Saint Vincent University anniversary award for exceptional volunteer contribution.

Jack and Marion Flemming married 37 years ago, have four children (Karen, Colleen, John and Scott) and five grandchildren, all of whom reside in Halifax.