

READY MIX BRIEFS

ly loved him. He will be remembered fondly by his many friends and clients in the Maritime construction industry.

Deepest sympathies from APRMCA go out to the family of Laurie Stevens, who passed away on March 22, 2004 after several months of ill health. Stevens was devoted to his family, his community, his alma mater Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. and to the family construction business, the Stevens Group of Companies. He achieved much in his long and active life and will be missed greatly by family, friends, business associates and the large staff at the Stevens Group.

APRMCA held three *Slabs on Grade: Design, Construction and Maintenance* seminars, generic one-day short programs in Halifax, N.S.; St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador; and in Moncton, N.B. last November and this March. Combined attendance included 88 participants who received useful information covering the basic requirements of design, construction and maintenance of concrete slabs. APRMCA acknowledges with sincerest thanks the cooperation and assistance of the Cement Association of Canada and Jacques Whitford and Associates Limited, Newfoundland Geosciences Ltd., the Innovative Material and Intelligent Structures Centre at Dalhousie University, Geoff Kinney of Duron Ontario Ltd., Mike Corbett of Infrastructure Management and Associates and the generosity of the New Brunswick Community College, which allowed us to host several different seminars in their Moncton facilities.

APRMCA is pleased with the turn out at its recent *Concrete Pump Operators' Workshop*. Sixty-eight individuals attended this safety seminar held on April 3, 2004. This was the third offering of this excellent safety training and certification program since 2000. The one-day session was an opportunity for pump operators in the region, both members and non-members, to become accredited under the *American Concrete Pumping Association Certification Program*. This course was first

offered through APRMCA in April 2000. A total of 59 registrants wrote the ACPA exam, including 22 for certification and 37 for re-certification. Special thanks go to Dave Klapstein, training manager for Putzmeister America of Milwaukee, Wisconsin who presented the course and supervised the exam on behalf of ACPA. Our thanks go to Art Babineau, a power line technician with N.B. Power Inc., who talked to the group about high wire, general and electrical safety. And a special thanks to Bob McGinn, Atlantic Ready Mix, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, for reviewing APRMCA's *Safety Handbook for Concrete Pumps and Placing Booms*.

CANMET, ACI marine concrete workshop

The Atlantic Provinces Ready Mixed Concrete Association and the American Concrete Institute (ACI), Atlantic Chapter are co-sponsoring the CANMET/ACI International Workshop on Concrete in the Marine Environment.

This two-day workshop explores ongoing issues, changing technology and new solutions for concrete exposed to marine environments. Following the workshop is a visit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Weathering Exposure Station for Concrete and Concrete Materials on Treat Island, Maine. This marine concrete exposure test site allows attendees to see how well new and older concrete technologies perform after exposure to up to three decades in the tidal zone of the Bay of Fundy.

Internationally recognized speakers at the workshop will talk about themes of particular interest to designers, contractors and members of the ready mixed concrete industry and ACI Chapters in Atlantic Canada and New England who are involved in marine construction. There will be a particular emphasis on work done in both fair weather and harsh winter conditions.

Topics include repair and restoration, fibre-reinforced concrete and corrosion protection for embedded reinforcement. Close attention will be made to the contribution of supplementary cementing materials (SCMs) such as fly ash, slag and silica fume and the improvements they can make to the properties of marine concrete. There are also reports on the findings of long-term testing at the Treat Island site.

Some of the featured experts are Dr. W. S. (Wib) Langley, principal of W. S. Langley Concrete and Materials Technology Inc., Halifax, N.S. and Dr.

Mike Thomas, professor of Engineering at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B. Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Canada (CANMET), deGussa (Master Builders), Cold Regions Research Engineering Laboratory (ERDC-CRREL) and others will also present at the workshop.

While on Treat Island, those agencies with specimens at the exposure site will have staff in attendance to describe the purpose and results of their research programs. The concrete under examination is subjected to wetting and drying, freezing and thawing, as well as erosion and abrasion. Depending on the severity of the winter, the concrete specimens undergo about 120 cycles of freezing and thawing each year. More information about the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers site, including the history of this 68-year-old facility, can be found at http://www.wes.army.mil/SL/TREAT_ISL/index.html.

The Workshop, August 23 and 24, is at the Calais Motor Inn in Calais, Maine, just across the Canada-U.S. border from St. Stephen, New Brunswick. The registration fee \$150 U.S. Complete information about the workshop and a registration form can be found at www.unb.ca/civil/bremner/workshop.htm.

The tour of Treat Island takes place the day after the workshop. Those wishing to go must advise Donna Day of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 601-634-4101 or at dayd@wes.army.mil. Treat Island is a 10 minute boat ride from Eastport, Maine departing from the Eastport Municipal Wharf at 11 a.m. Eastport is about a 45 minute drive from Calais.



Concrete test samples, some of them several decades old are subjected to the elements as part of various research programs at the US Army Corps Engineers National Weathering Exposure Station for Concrete and Concrete Materials at Treat Island, Maine.



ACI-Atlantic held its AGM in St. John's, NL, February 3-7, 2004. Two of the guest speakers, Dr. Mike Thomas, UNB, Fredericton, NB (L) and Dr. W. S. (Wib) Langley, Langley Concrete and Materials Technology, Halifax, NS prepare to "Kiss the Cod" in a traditional Newfoundland Screeching-In Ceremony presided over by Master of Ceremonies, Derek Durdle, St. Lawrence Cement, of Corner Brook, NL.

Albert Coldwell retires after 43 years

By Lynne Wells
Contributing Writer

Albert Coldwell passed the torch at the Quality Concrete Ready Mix plant in New Minas, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia this past Christmas; retiring after 43 years in the ready mix industry. General manager of the plant since 1976, Coldwell credits his "good bunch of guys" for easing the way.

"Good employees make things a lot easier for you and I

had great help," Coldwell says.

Coldwell started work at the plant in April 1961 when it was Maurice's Ready Mix. The plant changed hands in 1976 when Peter Ross of Aberdeen Paving purchased the operation.

"The name of the plant didn't change. We still operated as Maurice's Ready Mix. But that's the year the previous general manager retired and I took over the position."

The plant changed hands again in 2003 when Quality

Concrete bought it and changed the name.

From 1976 to Christmas 2003, Coldwell ran the plant. He was there during its busiest times.

"The 1970s were peak years for the plant," he says. "We had upwards of 30 people working there and we were producing more than 30,582 cubic metres per year of concrete. Now, there's fewer than 15 people at the plant and it's producing less than 15,291 cubic metres per year."

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Yvette Hughes
AMEC Earth & Environmental
32 Troop Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1Z1

amec

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TEL (902) 468-2848
FAX (902) 468-1314
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