

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING

There is no doubt that as an industry association, APRMCA tries to be many things to many people. It's a balancing act that most often gets the job done and serves members very well. This offering of Dura-Notes includes a few of our most significant undertakings this year and tells you about the extraordinary work of some of our volunteers.

TCA-ACI Tilt-Up Supervisor/Technician Training & Certification Program

The TCA/ACI Tilt-Up Supervisor/Technician Training & Certification Program was offered to the Atlantic Canadian construction industry on February 2, 2005, in Moncton, NB. Forty-three individuals from government, contracting and design firms in the region, mostly from New Brunswick, were in attendance. This outing netted 21 successful examinees from the 24 contractors who wrote the certification exam. This five-year certification program was offered previously in January 2002.

The success of the program has created a geographic ghetto of sorts, in which our niche tilt-up market has produced a significant number of tilt-up technicians, according to the Tilt-up Concrete Association (TCA) headquartered in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

The efforts to qualify tilt-up contractors are part of the tilt-up promotional efforts of APRMCA and the Cement Association of Canada (CAC). TCA/ACI certification credentials are just one of a number of criteria that demonstrate a company's interest in and commitment to tilt-up construction.

The 2005 certification program was presented by two special guests: Ed Sauter, executive director of TCA since 1992, and Laurence Smith, P.Eng., a partner, director and senior project engineer with J.W. Lindsay Enterprises Limited, Dartmouth, N.S. He currently serves as TCA's first vice-president. Smith's presentation offered a wealth of first-hand experience in getting the job done efficiently and right.

APRMCA's 2005 Annual General Meeting & Convention

Kudos go to Bob McGinn, Atlantic Ready Mix, and Derek Durdle, St. Lawrence Cement Inc., for their yeoman efforts in organizing APRMCA's 39th Annual General Meeting & Convention in Corner Brook, NL, on February 17-19, 2005. The theme "Another Wonderful Fine Time" was a sequel to the annual meeting organized five years ago by the same co-chairs in the same place. There were many highlights and a few are worthy of mention here.

For starters, Bob McGinn ascended to the role of president of APRMCA, succeeding Allan Heffell, CRM-Summerside PEI. APRMCA is grateful for the contributions made by Allan Heffell over his two-year term and wish him well as his career moves forward.

McGinn has maintained an active role in APRMCA over the past 10 years as a director representing Newfoundland and Labrador members, as chairman of the finance committee, and as first vice-president.

The technical program was second-to-none this year, and for those members present, the benefits were significant. We appreciated the contributions by several cabinet ministers of the Newfoundland and Labrador government. At the industry luncheon, Hon. Tom Rideout, Minister of Works, Services and Transportation was able to expound on the growth of NL's economy and the role that construction plays in it. His remarks about the potential of tilt-up construction left his audience with the hint that this construction alternative may receive favourable consideration for future Newfoundland government projects.

The presidents' banquet, attended by Hon. Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, and Hon. Dianne Whelan, Minister of Government Services, heard Mrs. Dunderdale emphasize the importance of economic development for NL's continued growth. Her emphasis on local content and support for local businesses made it clear that she recognized the important spin-offs generated by the ready mix industry.

The Technical & Associates' Program began with a presentation by Dr. Angad Hussein, P.Eng. from Memorial University. Claude Bédard, ing, president of Euclid Admixture Canada Inc. and past president of the CSA A23.1/2 Committee, provided a first-hand account of the deliberations that brought about the newest edition of the standard. Bruce Labrie, ing, St. Lawrence Cement Inc., Montreal, discussed supplementary cement materials (SCMs) and blended cement technology. Shane MacDow, Pinnacle Agencies/Master Builders, Dartmouth, NS, discussed rapid high early strength ready mixed concrete. Robin Bartlett, GM of Merit Contractors Association of NL, and Bill McLellan, GM of Merit Contractors Association of NS, enlightened members about the purpose of and benefits

available from their open shop organization. Newfoundland Styro Inc., Bishop Falls, NL, discussed the advantages of its Reward Wall, an ICF-system product manufactured in Atlantic Canada. Bill Dooley, P.Eng., and Colin Dickson, P.Eng., from the Cement Association of Canada described the focus of CAC-Atlantic.

The convention was capped off with a Newfoundland supper and kitchen party. Incoming president Bob McGinn led the evening with the presentation of gifts and awards. Derek Durdle was the skipper in charge of a mass "screch-in" — a traditional Newfoundland ceremony whereby mainlanders can qualify for honorary citizenship in the Province of

Newfoundland and Labrador with a toddy of Newfoundland screech, a tooth-crunching chew on a piece of hardtack bread, and a slurpy kiss with a long-dead cod fish.

"Another Wonderful Fine Time" was had by one and all! APRMCA is indebted to all the annual meeting sponsors, organizers and speakers who offered their time and knowledge for the benefit of our members.

CRMCA Concrete Delivery Professional Certification Program for Mixer Truck Drivers

APRMCA has been telling members for the last three years that a driver training program would be available soon. We are pleased to report that soon is now.

CRMCA purchased the rights to NRMCA's Concrete Delivery Professional® (CDP) Program in June 2004 after all ready mix associations in Canada (including APRMCA) endorsed this plan. A considerable amount of work was required to "Canadianize" it. APRMCA set dates to begin delivering the program to its members in January 2005.

The program in Atlantic Canada is overseen by the APRMCA CDP Driver Training Committee. Administration of the program in Atlantic Canada will be carried out by the APRMCA office. Each of the CRMCA member associations will also run the programs in their respective areas in a similar fashion.

The CRMCA Concrete Delivery Professional (CDP) Certification Program for Mixer Truck Drivers is owned by CRMCA for the benefit of the ready mixed concrete industry in Canada. CRMCA will set the general policy and rules of the program to maintain it as a truly national certification program. APRMCA took the lead in Canada in working out many of these details and in offering the program this spring.

There are five modules in the CRMCA program: I-Product Knowledge; II-Environmental; III-Customer and Company Relations; IV-Safety; V-Vehicle Maintenance & Operations. APRMCA was extremely fortunate to acquire the services and expertise of four individuals to deliver these five modules. We are indebted to our speakers for their extensive contributions. They are: Yvette Hughes, P.Eng., a senior materials engineer and manager, Nova Scotia Operations; Peter Lund, P.Geo., vice-president of AMEC Earth & Environmental, Dartmouth, NS; Karen Blotnicky, MBA, president and consulting coordinator for The Marketing Clinic, Bedford, NS; Sean Sturgeon, safety and compliance officer for the Warren Group of Companies, Rexton, NB.

We received strong efforts from other members who reviewed the modules. Thank you to Gordon Leaman, P.Eng., Jacques Whitford Limited; Norm MacLeod, P.Eng., an APRMCA honorary life member; Tim Rice, VJ. Rice Concrete Limited.

Thanks are also due to the members of APRMCA's new CDP Driver Training Committee, including: chairman Dave Bancroft, Sackville Concrete Ltd.; Mel Fiander, Quality Concrete;

Mark Munro, Grace Canada Inc.

This is not an introductory program to train truck drivers, but rather a three-year certification program. There is a minimum requirement of 2,000 hours experience driving mixer trucks to be certified. Drivers must pass a detailed vehicle inspection and achieve a minimum 70 per cent grade on the written exam.

Drivers and their employers must remember that the CDP program is a basic, national standard, and a certification program. It aims to capture the minimum requirements for standards of operation across the country for drivers at all levels. This course is an opportunity for companies to demonstrate their commitment to the training and education of their staff. In addition, the program allows for ready mix companies to show that they take their due diligence responsibilities seriously by certifying their drivers under a national program.


APRMCA's intention is to offer the CDP Driver Training Seminars on an annual basis, as one option for the delivery of the program. The alternative measure for program delivery is for members to provide it as part of their in-house training so companies can tailor it to their own policies. APRMCA's ultimate goal is to certify 100 per cent of members' drivers in Atlantic Canada.

A Summary of CRMCA Issues

The Canadian Ready Mixed Association (CRMCA) and APRMCA have had the good fortune over the past two years to have Mel Fiander of Quality Concrete, Dartmouth, NS, as president of CRMCA. Fiander has extensive knowledge and experience in the ready mixed concrete industry, and has been involved with APRMCA as a former marketing committee chairman and president, and as an associate member of the CSA A23.1/2 Committee (just to name a few of his credentials). CRMCA has benefited greatly from Mel's thoughtful consideration and swift action on a number of CRMCA initiatives during his term in office.

Following is a brief summary of a few key issues with local impact and national importance:

- CRMCA Concrete Delivery Professional (CDP) Certification Program for Mixer Truck Drivers.
- Environmental Management Practices for Ready Mixed Concrete Operations in Canada: This is CRMCA's environmental guide, ratified by all member associations and finalized in June 2004 and is available to ready mixed concrete association members.
- Performance Based Specifications (PBS), Non-Disclosure (ND) of Mix Designs: CCA expressed to CRMCA its concerns with the recommendation that ready mix producers not disclose concrete mix design proportions.
- CRMCA Position Statement on Concrete Field Testing is in support of improvement to concrete inspection and testing, thereby, influencing the quality of concrete producers' product and cost of construction. Solutions to improve the current situation will be developed.
- Funding of CSA A23.1/2: CSA has asked industry to fund its related standards and wants the R/M concrete industry to fund CSA A23.1/2. CRMCA member associations agreed to provide funding to avoid the possibility of losing the important CSA A23.1/2 concrete standard.
- New Concrete Organization Spans the Americas: Representatives of U.S., Canadian, Central and South American ready mixed concrete groups announced plans to form the RMCOA. CRMCA president Melvin Fiander stated: "By creating a formal organization, the bond between our organizations will be enhanced." The RMCOA agreement was signed by NRMCA chairman Hardy B. Johnson, CRMCA president Melvin Fiander (Quality Concrete), and FIHP president Nelson Parra in Las Vegas, March 16, at the CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2005 Show.
- Costs & Multi-Pollutant Emissions Associated with Process Technologies in the Canadian Cement, Ready-Mix Concrete, Draft Report, July, 2004.



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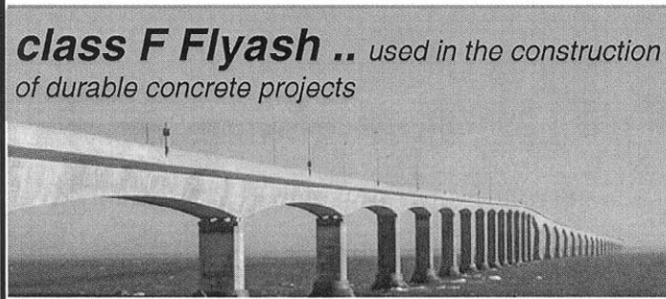
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