

Lafarge Bath Plant

concrete connection

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bringing materials to *life*

A Message to Our Neighbours

You'll notice something new in our newsletter today. It's a Brochure designed for newly arrived neighbours as they move into the Bath area. It tells them about our Cement plant and what goes on inside. This Brochure came directly from recommendations made by our Community Liaison Committee, a group of community volunteers and official representatives who help us understand the concerns and goings on within our community.

We felt that our long term neighbours might appreciate a copy too and so this Newsletter is mostly made up of this new Brochure along with some other news.

One of those news items is that I have accepted a new Plant Manager role in Joppa, Illinois. My new posting takes effect on July 1st. My wife and I truly enjoyed our time here and leave with many fond memories and best wishes for the continued success of the Bath plant and the community.

Replacing me as the Plant Manager of the Bath plant is Mike Kralik who joined us from the Sugar Creek, Missouri plant as the plant's Operations Manager over a year ago. We'll introduce you to Mike in the next edition of the Concrete Connection.

Sincerely,

Michael Klenk, Plant Manager

Bath Plant Sponsors Tankard

Last year we told you about our commitment to supporting high-calibre sporting events in our region. In 2009, we were a proud sponsor of the Canadian Under 18 Women's Hockey Championships. In 2010, we put our commitment into action once again, only this time, instead of sponsoring another hockey tournament, we turned our attention to Canada's other favourite ice-based sport.

Ontario's top curlers converged on nearby Napanee, Ontario this February as the Ontario Tankard, the provincial men's curling championships, took over the Strathcona Paper Centre. And once again, the Bath Plant was a proud, top level tournament sponsor.

A capacity crowd of over 1,400 was on hand to watch Glenn Howard's rink take the title in the championship match. Howard and his crew would fall just shy of capturing the national title a month later, as the Ontario rink finished second at the Tim Hortons Brier in Halifax in March, falling to Alberta in the finals by a 6-5 margin.

As always, the Bath Plant is proud to lend its name to this world-class event. The pursuit of excellence through the kind of teamwork we saw on display at the Tankard is one of our core values that will serve us well now and in the future.



“The age of the equipment is less important than the skill with which it’s been maintained.”



Employee Spotlight: Kirby Ruthven

In every issue, we like to shine the spotlight on one of our employees to give you a chance to get to know the people behind the plant. In this issue, we’d like to introduce you to Maintenance Planner Kirby Ruthven, a 34-year veteran and one of the people who keeps the plant going.

Q: Tell us what a Maintenance Planner does.

A: Repair work comes to the Maintenance department and my job is to plan it - to make sure the procedures and tools are in place to do the job. This is a big plant, so there’s a lot of work. I plan work for a staff of 23 millwrights and we’re always busy.

Q: You’ve been at the plant for 34 years. What brought you here?

A: I’m originally from Belleville. The predecessor cement plant to the Bath plant was in Point Anne, just outside of Belleville, but it closed in the early 70s. Many of the workers there came to Bath for jobs, and that’s how I heard about the Bath plant. In 1976, I was just out of school and looking for work. I applied to the Bath plant, and I was hired on into the Yard Department as a labourer.

Q: So how did you end up in the Maintenance Department?

A: After I had been in the Yard Department for a few years, I did an apprenticeship as a millwright. I did that for a few more years and then I got promoted. I’ve been in my current job for 12 years now.

Q: One of your biggest challenges has to be working with some of the older equipment. What are some of the challenges you come up against regularly?

A: The age of the equipment is less important than the skill with which it’s been maintained. When you’re working with older equipment, the parts can sometimes be hard to find. Sometimes we have to find different suppliers. In some cases we have to make modifications to the parts because they won’t be the same as what you would have bought when the machines were built in the 70s.

“My hobbies are music and theatre.”

Q: Not only is the equipment older, it’s big too. Tell us about what it takes to repair some of those big machines.

A: We’ve got large equipment like ball mills, a cement kiln, and a limestone crusher. Visitors to the plant are all taken aback by the size of the plant. For example, the cement kiln is two stories high and two football fields long. For a ball mill, a liner repair can take many weeks because we may have to replace several hundred liners at a time.

Q: And what do you like to do when you’re not overseeing complex repair jobs?

A: My hobbies are music and theatre. My wife and I go to Stratford every year and we book a few concerts every year too. We go to a few concerts locally, but mostly, we like to travel.

Energy Farm Update:

The plant is gearing up for the biomass trial in September, 2010. We hope to provide you an overview of the trial in an upcoming newsletter.



Lafarge North America, Bath Plant is committed to being an environmentally responsible organization.

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