

Lafarge sponsors Bath's largest Canada Day fireworks display

In this issue:

A warm welcome to our new employees

Safety remains #1 priority for new plant manager

Bath plant recognized for its environmental efforts

TURNING SCRAP TIRES INTO CEMENT: A FACT SHEET

More than one thousand people turned out for this year's Canada Day fireworks display in Bath, fully sponsored by the Lafarge cement plant. The event topped off a successful day of community festivities that included a festival and parade.

"This was a great year for us with a high turnout of plant employees at the parade, followed by the largest ever Bath fireworks display" said Glenn Widish, Manager of the Bath Plant.

About 33 Lafarge employees and family members were on hand to distribute over 14,000 pieces of candy to parade goers of all ages. A ready mix truck from Lafarge's Kingston Aggregate, Concrete, and Asphalt division and a Cooney Cement truck were also on display.

This year's fireworks display was enhanced by the addition of the Lafarge name and logo lit up in fire as part of the show.



Bath Plant welcomes new employees



There are a few new faces at the Bath Plant in the past few months. Electrical Coordinator **Joe Cramer** moved to the Varty Lake area from Ohio in March with his wife Laura.

Cramer, a graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Toledo, had worked as an Electrical EIT (Engineer in Training) at Ohio's Paulding Plant since joining Lafarge as a co-op student in 1999.

Cramer supervises seven electricians and coordinates electrical projects between other plant departments. He appreciates the professionalism of his colleagues. "The attitude toward work here is pro-active rather than putting out fires all the time. And the electricians are more like managers/engineers than general workers."

Prior to joining the Bath Plant, Joe credits the Lafarge Cement Professionals Program for giving him a big picture outlook of the company. Focusing on team work and problem solving, Joe describes the program as "Lafarge Boot Camp" that includes an intensive two week training program, as well as a general orientation of the company.



New Project Engineer **Dave Yokom** also benefited from the Cement Professionals Program. The Toronto native began working at the Bath Plant in May and credits the program with

teaching him about the entire cement process.

Yokom, who is defending his Masters in Mechanical and Materials Engineering at Queen's, says the Cement Professionals Program helped him to apply his engineering background to advance the success of the plant. "It also provides you with a great opportunity to move up within the company," he adds.

Yokom supervises projects in the New Works Department, such as installing oil monitors in waste water ponds. "New Works is a good fit for me. I really like working here because it gives me a great overview of the entire plant."



Dave Whalen joined the Lafarge Bath Plant's electrical team in January. The Napanee resident describes his job as "maintenance, troubleshooting and preventing electrical breakdowns." Whalen, who reports to Joe Cramer, was trained as an electrician in Ontario and Alberta. He continues on the job training at the Bath Plant and also takes courses in Toronto and the U.S. to ensure that he is up to date.

Whalen's long term goal is to be a proficient electrician in the plant, something he says will take five or six years. "It's a completely different world because the cement industry is highly specialized - you don't see equipment like it in most industries."

Safety remains the #1 priority for new plant manager



Glenn Widish is the new manager of the Lafarge Bath plant, replacing **Alain Shooner** who was transferred to the Roberta plant

in southern Alabama. A chemical engineer with 23 years of experience in the chemical industry, Widish joined the Bath plant in 2003 as Operations Manager and says he will build on efforts already underway to ensure the safety of all workers. "The employees at the Bath plant have kept safety as the top priority, working together to ensure each other's safety," Widish says.

Other goals include further improvements in environmental quality and production performance. "Lafarge's ambition is to be the leader in all of its endeavours and we at the Bath plant have caught this spirit, with our vision to be recognized for our excellence in safety, people practices, quality and performance."

Widish emphasizes that the environment is a main focus for the facility. The plant listens to and responds to the community's concerns by constantly improving its operation. Feedback to the plant is received through regular meetings

Bath plant's environmental efforts earn certification from Wildlife Habitat Council

with its Citizen's Committee, which is made up of local neighbours, and by directly responding to concerns.

Widish also stated, "One of the most exciting projects we are currently working on is the use of alternative fuels in our operation. These technologies are being used throughout the world with excellent results."
(see insert for more information)

Widish notes that the Bath Plant produces enough Portland cement to build more than 70 CN Towers every year, and makes a huge contribution to the local economy. "Lafarge is proud of its roots in this community and will continue to be a vital part of the Loyalist region."

Former Plant Manager Alain Schooner expressed confidence in the abilities of his successor. "Glenn was an important part of the plant advancements over the past few years and I leave knowing that both the plant and its employees are in good hands."



The Bath Plant has been certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), a non-profit group dedicated to restoring and enhancing wildlife management.

The plant earned the certification in August 2004 thanks to Environmental Coordinator **Nick Veriotes** and his team, whose efforts have made the environment around the plant a friendly habitat.

Created in 1988, WHC helps large landowners, particularly corporations, manage their unused lands in an ecologically sensitive manner for the benefit of wildlife. More than two million acres in Canada, the U.S., Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed through WHC-assisted projects. A biologist from the council visited the Bath Plant to make recommendations about improving natural habitat and to monitor progress.

New measures included the installation of bird boxes at the southeast end of the storm water pond to encourage the nesting of local birds. Boxes are

monitored and moved if nesting does not occur. Similar boxes were also installed to attract bats. "By creating a bat friendly environment we can eventually reduce the insect population near the lake, particularly mosquitoes, since bats are a natural predator," Veriotes explains.



Other efforts involved getting help from local school children in May 2004 to plant trees and shrubs in nearby retired farmland. As well a special forage mix was added to grass seed to improve the food source for local wildlife. The new measures are already having a positive impact. "We have noted an increase in the number of local foxes, deer and coyotes in the area, as well as wild turkeys," Veriotes says.

More plans are in the works to improve the local environment. "The next phase is a 'corporate lands for learning' outdoor centre involving local schools that would be certified by the Wildlife Habit Council," Veriotes notes. "Students could learn in an

outdoor setting. For example, by visiting the old quarry site children could learn about fossils." Another long term project is a nature trail in the nearby forest.



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