

THE VOICE

SUMMER 2024



A quarterly publication produced by the BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association for its members and industry partners



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings,

With the start of summer, many of us look forward to the promise of the open road. Whether that means heading to the campground or lake, a road trip to visit friends or family, or just getting out for a scenic drive of beautiful B.C., the weeks and months ahead are often the best time to be exploring everything our province has to offer.

Our BCRB team is logging our own fair share of kilometres these days, with the RoadShow truck and trailer criss-crossing the South Coast and Southern Okanagan as part of its initial time on the road. The RoadShow is providing participants with the first-hand opportunity to learn what it's like to work in our industry, and we've been receiving rave reviews to date. If you haven't already had the opportunity to experience it yourself, we're looking forward to visiting when the tour brings us through your hometown.

The shift into summer season provides an important reminder to prioritize safe driving and roadside safety procedures, especially given the increased volume of highway maintenance and roadwork projects underway. As part of the work done by the Work Zone Safety Alliance, the Cone Zone campaign includes a range of tools and guides that are available to reinforce what workers need to know, as well as important tips to keep in mind if you're behind the wheel during your own summer vacations.

In this issue, you'll also have the chance to learn about another important safety initiative we're launching soon. The new RoadReadyBC program offers standardized road safety training specific to our province and current legislation. We encourage you and your staff to register for this online course and get up to speed with best practices that have been created for this industry, by the industry.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming Annual Fall Conference, taking place this September in Whistler. In addition to the longstanding traditions our members have come to expect from this conference, we're focused on delivering another round of insightful and valuable programming related to our industry. And, if you weren't already aware, Whistler has a couple pretty good golf courses that you might want to check out.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to our organization. Together, we continue to make strides in creating a positive impact in our industry.

Sincerely,

MATT PITCAIRN

President

BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association



2024 FALL CONFERENCE

The 2024 Fall Conference will be held September 15-17, 2024, at the Westin Resort & Spa in Whistler, BC. Delegates can look forward to developing professional relationships while gaining a better outlook and understanding of industry trends. The conference provides excellent opportunities for networking, golf, and relaxation.

The conference kicks off on Sunday, September 15, with the BCRB Fall Open Golf Tournament at the Whistler Golf Course, followed by an “Experience Whistler” Welcome Reception. On Monday, September 16, delegates can look forward to several keynote sessions with topics from the Women in Road Building Committee and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, followed by the BC Road Builders’ Fall Classic Golf Tournament. The day concludes with the ever-popular Reverse Draw, where one person will walk away with \$5,000!

The conference concludes on Tuesday with a keynote session from BC industry leaders, moderated by Jas Johal, with panelists from BC Hydro, Infrastructure BC, MOTI, Port of Vancouver and TransLink.

Learn more about the event and [register today](#).

RECAP: 2024 IVAN HANCHARD GOLF TOURNAMENT



Thanks to everyone that attended the 53rd Annual Ivan Hanchard Golf Tournament in May. The sold out tournament was held at Northview Golf & Country Club in Surrey, BC. For the second year in a row, we were fortunate to have beautiful blue skies and a hot day on the course! Thank you to the member companies who sponsored the event and made this year another resounding success.

Through generous donations from our membership, we're proud to announce that we were able to raise \$5,000 for our own Betty Spalton Scholarship Program and \$25,000 for the BC Children's Hospital Foundation.

We're thrilled to note that our contributions to date now surpass more than \$750,000 to the BC Children's Hospital Foundation on behalf of the BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association.

Congratulations to our winners:

Ridge Course Lowest Gross Score

Score 61

Mike Gareau
Brian Lawson
Rob Hasell
Mike Hayes

Canal Course Lowest Gross Score

Score 58

Dave Boyle
Brett Parker
Jeff Reed
Andrew Johnston





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PAVING FOR THE FUTURE: HOT-IN-PLACE ASPHALT RECYCLING

We can dream of a day when flying cars become the preferred mode of transportation, but until then, two things will stay true: roads will be driven and roads will need maintenance. As the road-building industry shifts towards more sustainable practices, one inspiring example comes from a sector of road maintenance that has utilized an innovative recycling method since the 1980s. Hot-in-place asphalt recycling (HIPAR) uses 60 per cent less energy than a newly-paved road and recycles 100 per cent of the existing asphalt to a depth of 50 millimetres. In BC, three paving companies have quietly been recycling roads using this method for decades: ARC Asphalt Recycling, Green Roads Recycling, and Peters Bros Paving.

HOT-IN-PLACE ASPHALT RECYCLING VS. TRADITIONAL PAVING

Since 1986, the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has been using HIPAR as one of its pavement resurfacing alternatives. Compared to the conventional process—which involves completely removing the asphalt surface, base repairs, full road surface replacement, and transporting materials—hot-in-place asphalt recycling is localized, efficient, and cost-effective.

The HIPAR process starts with pre-heating, where a hot mill softens and removes the top 50 mm layer of pavement. A rejuvenating agent is added to the existing



pavement along with a new asphalt mix of up to 30 per cent. To finish the job, a conventional roller re-lays the recycled pavement and compacts the surface.

Shortly after HIPAR was introduced in BC, the Ministry of Transportation threatened to discontinue its use due to concerns about the quality of the product and the amount of smoke produced. [EcoPave Systems](#), founded by Al Rorison, who, along with his partner Pat Wiley, pioneered HIPAR in BC with their company RW Blacktop, developed the emissions system now standard on all HIPAR equipment throughout the province. This system effectively captures and eliminates smoke emissions produced during repaving.

RECYCLING FOR THE FUTURE

In 1989, Al Rorison sold RW Blacktop with the original prototype HIPAR machine to concentrate on promoting the process and manufacturing the equipment to sell it globally. Twenty-five years and several iterations later, the Ecopaver 400 is a multi-stage recycler that handles the entire HIPAR process from start to finish and has been sold to contractors and governments across North America, Mexico, Sweden, and Korea. Rorison reentered the construction sector in 2009 by purchasing ARC Asphalt Recycling, which continues to provide HIPAR services today.

Skip Stothert, who recognized the dwindling supply of high-quality aggregate and the rising cost of oil, acquired RW Blacktop Ltd. from Rorison and started Green Roads Recycling. To date, Green Roads exclusively uses the HIPAR method and is responsible for recycling 4,500 km of road across BC. The business remains family-run, led by Stothert's sons: Shane, the general manager, and Jamie, the operations manager. Jamie Stothert advocates for the broader adoption of HIPAR, maintaining that it's vastly underutilized.

While adoption has been slow, the Ministry of Transportation in BC has continued supporting HIPAR since the '80s. Thanks to their forward-thinking, 13,000 km of roads have been diverted from being trucked away and downcycled. That's the equivalent of roughly 6 million tonnes of recycled asphalt, 360,000 tonnes of oil, and approximately 5.64 million tonnes of recycled rock and sand. In 2012 prices, that adds up to \$135 million in savings.

You can calculate HIPAR cost and energy savings in real time using Green Roads Recycling's [GHG emission calculator](#).

The third company in BC providing HIPAR services is Peters Bros Paving, which started offering the method in 2000. Today, HIPAR makes up about 30 per cent of the company's highway division projects. Noting the growing trend to reduce emissions and the industry's historic dependence on carbon-producing products, Peters Bros Paving President, Joe Cuzzocrea, predicts the use of HIPAR will continue growing in popularity. Skip Stothert agrees. "Our process is evolving as we do more and more research and development, as do the other companies. BC is the beneficiary—and the taxpayers," he says.

When Stothert reflects on his legacy at Green Roads, he's most proud of the relationships he's built and the people he's worked with. "Not just my sons, but all of the ministry representatives that worked with us and came together to help make us successful. It comes down to the people and being able to look at the job when it's finished and be proud of what you've done."

THE BENEFITS OF HIPAR

Hot-in-place asphalt recycling offers the same durability as traditional methods while providing significant improvements in sustainability, efficiency, and cost.

SUSTAINABLE

It is widely accepted that HIPAR requires 60 per cent less energy than conventional paving methods. This translates to a 27-tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per km—an astronomical improvement compared to traditional methods.

In addition to significant energy savings, HIPAR recycles the rock and oil from the road, reducing reliance on

mining finite resources and drastically cutting costs compared to constructing a new road.

COST-EFFECTIVE

After compounding the costs of new materials, transportation, and disposal of the original pavement, HIPAR has an average cost savings of 30 per cent, and can reduce the cost by up to 50 per cent.

EFFICIENT

Three to four km of paving per day is possible using HIPAR, and with a compact train design that confines the construction zone, the impact on traffic is limited. As the process focuses on surface rejuvenation, production time is comparatively fast and roads are back in service quicker than with traditional paving. Once the process is complete, a road is usable in just 20 minutes.

NOT A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION

Hot-in-place asphalt recycling is a great method for roads where the asphalt is still in relatively good condition, but it's not the answer for every job. Because HIPAR can't fix deep structural problems, it's better for roads with surface issues. Additionally, it's less effective in cooler weather, so operation is confined to the warmer months.

When appropriate, hot-in-place recycling is an extremely efficient method of repaving. While the initial cost of purchasing the specialized equipment is high, the rewards pay back in dividends. And that's a good thing, because if the accuracy of self-driving cars is any indication, we're going to need our roads for a while yet.



Great benefits are a key way of attracting top talent, which is why we offer an excellent benefit package to our member companies. We partner with ICBA Benefits to make sure that you get the best value for your money while taking care of your workers and their families. Our services include:

- Great group health, dental, and retirement benefits at competitive rates
- A dedicated Wellness Coordinator to ensure smooth onboarding and implementation of our Workplace Wellness Program
- Performance reviews of existing benefits plans to find opportunities for coverage improvement and cost savings

Members receive very competitive rates, top-notch service, and the help of ICBA's committed team. It's great for your workers, their families, and your bottom line. Learn more and [sign up here](#).

CONE ZONE SEASON IS HERE

A REMINDER TO PRIORITIZE ROADSIDE SAFETY PROCEDURES

Every summer, drivers flood the roads en route to vacation homes, camping trips, and the closest bodies of water. But summer also brings an influx of roadside workers, and every year, a percentage of those workers are injured on the job. The annual [Cone Zone campaign](#) aims to reduce the risk for roadside workers and people who drive through work zones.

Cone Zone was introduced in 2011 by Road Safety at Work, with support from the Work Zone Safety Alliance. Despite changes in roadside conditions over the years, the unfortunate reality is that the rate of injuries and fatalities among roadside workers has remained relatively unchanged. Over the last 10 years, on average, about one person per year loses their life in a roadside work incident and about 25 people are injured seriously enough that they have to take time off work.

As the spokesperson for Cone Zone, Trace Acres is acutely aware of the risks that roadside workers face on the job. He believes the program is essential to remind drivers of the vulnerability of roadside workers and educate them on the way to proceed when either passing through construction zones or passing any person doing work at the roadside.

"There is a very long list of individuals who could find themselves at the roadside and they all deserve our protection. They all need to understand their vulnerability to do what is necessary and comply with



the rules and regulations because they're in place to try to make their workplace as safe as possible," says Acres.

ROADSIDE RISKS IMPACT MORE THAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

While roadside maintenance workers represent a significant portion of the roadside workforce, the range of jobs that fall under the category is much broader and more diverse. The term "roadside worker" extends to a wide range of professionals, including first responders, landscapers, movers, utility workers, municipal workers, and telecommunications workers—even commercial truck drivers who may be temporarily exposed on the roadside to chain up, check a load, or do a brake check are considered roadside workers.

“IT’S AN IMPORTANT REMINDER THAT GOES OUT EVERY YEAR TO DRIVERS TO SLOW DOWN, PAY ATTENTION, DON’T BE DISTRACTED, AND OBEY THE DIRECTIONS OF TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSONNEL”

THE TECHNOLOGY DILEMMA.

One major contributing factor that keeps Cone Zone relevant year after year is the prevalence of distracted driving and the use of smartphones on the road. This was affirmed at the Cone Zone campaign launch event on May 14th, which happened in conjunction with an RCMP enforcement event. A live-work zone was set up in South Surrey, with traffic cones, traffic control personnel in PPE, and vehicles with flashing orange lights. Acres says there was no way you could not recognize it as a work zone where people were working. In just two hours, the RCMP handed out 38 infractions; 31 were for illegal cell phone use.

“Technology in some instances is helping to make roadside workers safer. On the other side, technology is not our friend, because it’s encouraging people to perhaps take risks that they shouldn’t be taking, especially when they are a few feet away from people who are doing work at the roadside,” says Acres.

While distracted driving remains a serious threat to roadside workers, other new technologies are helping improve roadside safety in work zones. Automated Flagger Devices (AFADS) are one example. This

equipment replaces the traffic control personnel who would be directing traffic through the work zone. The technology is simple: a set of lights and an arm that can be raised and lowered remotely by someone standing safely off the roadside.

While AFAD technology is already helping prevent roadside injuries, some drivers are slow to adjust.

“Impatient drivers are prepared to take chances. They think, ‘Well, there’s nobody here so I can drive around it,’” says Acres. Incidents have been reported where a driver is on the wrong side of the road and meets oncoming traffic because they’re not supposed to be there.

Widespread adoption of any new technology is prone to growing pains, but Acres is confident that we will be seeing this type of technology more and more—the kind that separates workers from drivers.

A TOOLKIT FOR SAFETY.

The Cone Zone website is the hub for all of its resources, providing a comprehensive toolkit for drivers, employers, and workers. Material is updated regularly to reflect the traffic management manual, changing regulations, as well as new technology and learnings. The guide comprises four main sections, along with quizzes and videos:

- [Work Zone Planning Toolkit.](#)
- [Safety at the Roadside: What Workers Need to Know.](#)
- [Roadside Work Preparation Guide.](#)
- [Guide for Drivers](#), including [this video](#).



Acres stresses that the most important thing employers can do is communicate with their employees. Both parties should work together to ensure that the plan and procedures are continuously refined to keep everyone as safe as possible. Workers are responsible for knowing the plan, following best practices, and collaborating and communicating with each other. Employers must empower their teams to identify potential risks and report them.

The optimal solution is to avoid having people on the road in vulnerable positions entirely. This might mean scheduling work at an off time, detouring traffic around the work site, or using technology or barricades to separate workers from traffic.

Roadside workers along with employers, prime contractors, and drivers all have a role to play in keeping the road safe. Everyone must understand what their role is and what they need to do to ensure they're protecting themselves and everyone else.

Find all the resources you need to keep your work zone safe this summer and year-round in the [Cone Zone Toolkit](#).

DEE MILLER NAMED ONE OF CONSTRUCTION'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE BY SITENEWS



In May, Dee Miller, the current Board Chair of JJM Construction and past BCRB Chair, was honoured as one of Construction's Most Influential People of 2024 by SiteNews, recognizing her career achievements and industry contributions.

Her current role as JJM Construction's Board Chair is only a part of her 30+ years with JJM, holding leadership roles across finance and HR. Miller's leadership extends to her presidency at F.A.S.T. First Aid & Survival Technologies, where she continues to drive significant advancements in safety and survival technologies. Notably, F.A.S.T. recently launched a line of high-visibility safety clothing specifically designed for women, with Miller advocating for the importance of accommodating the growing presence of women in construction.

Miller's influence is also evident in her extensive service to the industry. She served as a Canadian Construction Association (CCA) board member for nine years and chaired the board in 2012. Her leadership was instrumental as the founding director and chair of the BC Construction Safety Alliance, where she championed safety initiatives that had a lasting impact on the industry.

One of Miller's most notable achievements was her groundbreaking role with the BCRB. As the first female chair of the association, she paved the way for greater gender diversity and inclusion within the sector. Her pioneering efforts set a precedent and inspired many women to pursue careers in construction and leadership roles.

Dee Miller's recognition as one of Construction's Most Influential People in 2024 is a testament to her tireless work and visionary leadership. Her contributions continue to shape the construction industry, making it safer, more inclusive, and progressive.

The inaugural award ceremony, hosted by SiteNews, took place in Calgary and brought together industry leaders to celebrate CEOs, entrepreneurs, advocates, content creators, educators, organizers, and legal experts who have collectively shaped the future of construction.



STANDARDIZED SAFETY TRAINING FOR THE ROAD BUILDING AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

BC's new safety-awareness program will elevate job site safety across the province. Getting certified by RoadReadyBC will soon be accessible anytime, anywhere. Launching soon, the program will include:

- 24 online course modules
- Input from 60 industry experts
- References to current BC legislation and industry best practices

[Learn more at roadreadybc.com](https://roadreadybc.com)

Developed in partnership with:



JACK AND GILLIAN LININGTON SCHOLARSHIP



We are excited to introduce a new pathway for supporting students in our industry with the inaugural Jack and Gillian Linington Scholarship. Recipients will receive \$4,000 towards their education and living expenses to advance their careers in road building, road maintenance, or heavy civil construction.

WHO WERE JACK AND GILLIAN LININGTON

Jack Linington was involved with the BC Road Builders on various projects and committees for almost 30 years, between 1972 and 2001. He was made an Honourary Member in 1989.

Jack was married to his loving wife Gillian for 60 years. Their legacy lives on in the Jack and Gillian Linington Scholarship, along with Jack's significant contributions to advance the industry's growth and development.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants must submit a brief 250-500 word essay, transcripts from all secondary and post-secondary institutions attended, and a current resume.

We are proud to be awarding scholarships to three deserving individuals this year. Please pass this opportunity on to your network!

Applications close on June 30th each year. The next scholarship will be given out in 2025—details are available [here](#).

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



ALLTRADE EQUIPMENT CORP.

AllTrade Equipment Corp specializes in renting and selling high-quality construction and industrial equipment. They have locations across Canada and offer a diverse inventory, including excavators, loaders, and aerial lifts, catering to various project needs. Committed to customer satisfaction, AllTrade provides reliable equipment solutions with exceptional service and support.



BAKER TILLY

Baker Tilly is a globally recognized accounting and advisory firm, serving clients across Canada. Offering a wide range of services including audit, tax, and consulting, they specialize in supporting businesses of all sizes and industries. With a commitment to personalized solutions and exceptional client service, Baker Tilly delivers tangible results and fosters long-term success.



BASIS ENGINEERING

BASIS Engineering is a leading provider of innovative engineering solutions based in Canada. Specializing in structural, civil, and environmental engineering, they offer comprehensive services for infrastructure projects. With a focus on sustainability and efficiency, BASIS Engineering delivers tailored solutions to meet the evolving needs of clients across various industries.



CONQUEST EQUIPMENT

Conquest Equipment, headquartered in Estevan, SK, provides top-tier heavy construction equipment for rent and sale. Specializing in compaction and earthmoving machinery, they serve a wide range of construction needs. Committed to quality and customer service, Conquest Equipment offers reliable solutions to meet the demands of any construction project.



CONWEST CONTRACTING

Conwest Contracting is a reputable construction company based in British Columbia, Canada. Specializing in civil construction projects, they offer a wide range of services including site preparation, infrastructure development, and environmental remediation. With a commitment to quality, safety, and sustainability, Conwest delivers exceptional results for clients in both public and private sectors.



ESCO GROUP LLC

ESCO Group LLC, a part of the Weir Group, is a global leader in engineered metal wear parts and components for industrial applications. Specializing in mining, construction, and industrial sectors, they offer innovative solutions to optimize performance and productivity. With a commitment to quality and reliability, ESCO Group delivers superior wear protection worldwide.



MADER GROUP

Mader Group is a leading global provider of maintenance solutions for heavy machinery across industries like mining, civil, and construction. With a focus on reliability and efficiency, they offer expert services including mechanical support, electrical diagnostics, and component rebuilds. Their innovative approach ensures optimal performance and minimal downtime for clients worldwide.



NORTHBRIDGE INSURANCE

Northbridge Insurance is a trusted partner for businesses in the road building and maintenance industry in Canada. Offering specialized coverage and risk management solutions, they understand the unique challenges faced by contractors, ensuring comprehensive protection for infrastructure projects. With a commitment to supporting growth and managing risks, Northbridge is the insurer of choice for industry professionals.



PACIFICA PILING LP

Pacifica Piling specializes in foundation and piling solutions for construction projects. They offer services including driven piles, drilled piles, and shoring systems, catering to both residential and commercial sectors. With a focus on quality and safety, Pacifica Piling ensures high-quality, reliable foundation services for diverse construction needs.



UNITED TRAFFIC CONTROL LTD

United Traffic Control Ltd is a premier provider of traffic management services in Canada. Specializing in traffic control, signage, and safety measures, they ensure smooth traffic flow for construction sites, events, and roadwork projects. With a commitment to efficiency and safety, they are trusted by businesses and municipalities nationwide.



WHITESTAR PROPERTY SERVICES LTD.

WhiteStar Property Services, based in Vancouver, BC, offers comprehensive property management and maintenance solutions. Specializing in landscaping, snow removal, janitorial services, and building maintenance, they cater to residential, commercial, and strata properties. With a commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, White Star ensures properties are well-maintained year-round.



WILLSCOT OF CANADA

Based in Calgary, AB, WillScot of Canada stands out as a premier provider of modular space solutions. Their extensive inventory includes mobile office trailers, storage containers, and modular complexes tailored to diverse industries like construction, education, and healthcare. Offering flexibility and efficiency, WillScot delivers top-notch space solutions across Canada.

THE VOICE SPOTLIGHT: Q&A WITH KEN BARWICH

BC ROAD BUILDERS **THE**
ROADSHOW

Ken Barwich has been driving big machinery almost as long as he's been able to walk. As a child, he sat behind the wheel of a moving tractor while the adults bailed hay. Today, as Tour Lead of the RoadShow, Ken is traversing the province wheeling his passion for heavy machinery to a new generation of builders.



Q: What is your background in heavy machinery?

I grew up on a farm in Chilliwack and learned to operate equipment from a very young age. One of my first memories is working for one of my neighbours driving a tractor at four or five years old. They needed help in the fields and it was easier for them to put me on the tractor and point it in the right direction while they were baling hay so that there could be more men on the trailer loading the hay onto the piles.

Until I was around 18, I worked on my neighbour's farm operating all kinds of equipment. It sort of evolved from there; I've always had an affinity for operating equipment. And most recently, I've just come out of a career of operating cranes. I've been in a tower crane for the last three years. Before that, it was hydraulic cranes and mobile cranes.

Q: How has the use of simulators helped shape your career trajectory?

I operated cranes for many years and had operated a lot of mobile cranes and self-rec tower cranes, but didn't know if I had what it took to do a tower crane. I was in Vegas for a construction show and got on a simulator, and thought, "Oh, I can do this." Within two or three years, I was up operating tower cranes.

That's kind of what I'm offering—the opportunity for somebody to try something that they maybe don't know much about, but that they might have an interest in. It might spark something for them.

Q: You've been on the road for a couple of months now. What's been the reception to the RoadShow since you started?

Everybody is in amazement. It's a cool thing to pull up, and everybody's excited about what you've got. We were at a school for an outreach program, one of our first engagements. We had arranged parking for me out front and when I pulled up, there were the RCMP, the military, the paramedics, and corrections. They had their squad cars and were getting set up for the career fair that was happening that day. We pulled up right out front, and nobody was even looking at the cop cars anymore. It was pretty neat.

Q: What have been the best, most rewarding elements of working in that industry for you?

I've had the fortune of working on lots of, what you would call, legacy projects. Projects that when completed, you can look back and it's there for some time. I remember growing up and hearing stories of my grandfather, an immigrant to Canada, slinging concrete on the Vancouver Airport, on the Port Mann Bridge, and a few other major projects. They were just stories that went around the dinner table...I always remember that.

Having the opportunity to work on the Canada Line, I was part of the same kind of thing. To this day, I can go down Cambie Street and say "40 feet below our feet

right now is a tunnel that I worked on." I did everything from operating a boom truck to operating a tower crane to operating a mobile crane. I even had a little stint where I was driving the train up and down the tracks running the supply train. It's rewarding. It's not just getting something done and going home.

Q: There's a lot of buzz surrounding the RoadShow about how realistic the simulators are. Can you talk about that?

As an operator of equipment myself, it's one of the things I find really neat about these simulators—they're very realistic. People have a sense of accomplishment when they get off the equipment. If there was a training program using the simulators, I would be very confident to say that somebody can get their skills from zero to being a competent operator. I've always had the philosophy that the difference between a good operator and a bad operator is just seat time.

Q: Aside from your passion for the trades, what drew you to the role of RoadShow Tour Lead?

I've always wanted to travel more. I've never seen my province thoroughly and with the RoadShow, I'll be traveling to the four corners of the province. That's how I like to vacation, going somewhere with a destination. I like going where people are, where they're living, where they're doing things. I can go to different communities, and I'll be able to go everywhere from Castlegar to Fort St. John to Terrace to Victoria.

NOTES FROM THE ROAD



Since its maiden voyage to the SkillsBC TRADEX event in Abbotsford in April, the RoadShow has made 20 stops across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, from Nanaimo to Kamloops. Thousands of attendees have cycled through the trailer's various simulators, test driving careers in road building and heavy machinery.

“YOU CAN FIND A FUTURE IN THE TRADES...YOU CAN BE AN ELECTRICIAN, YOU CAN BE A PLUMBER, YOU CAN WORK IN AIR CONDITIONING, YOU CAN WORK IN ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRADES. I’D JUST LIKE TO HAVE THE ROAD BUILDERS ADDED TO THIS LIST, AND BY GOING OUT AND DOING WHAT WE’RE DOING, IT’S SHINING A LIGHT ON THAT.”

- KEN BARWICH, ROADSHOW TOUR LEAD

The RoadShow delivers an interactive pop-up experience designed for anyone interested in exploring careers in road building. The 34' trailer features four simulators and a virtual-reality experience that offer a realistic feel for operating the heavy machinery crucial for road construction. Over the next two years, the trailer will visit more than 100 locations across BC.

Here's a quick recap of its time on the road so far:

Attendees: 2,000

Events: 20

Kilometres travelled: 14,000

ROADSHOW VISITS HEO STUDENTS

In early March, the RoadShow stopped in Abbotsford to visit students in the Heavy Equipment Operator program (HEO). Offered as part of the careers program by Abbotsford School District, the HEO program is

supported by BC Road Builders member companies and equips up to 16 students annually with the skills and certifications necessary to find employment in the industry after graduation. With an impressive 90% of graduates offered job placements, the program has been a huge success in its 15 years of operation.

During the event, students were grouped into threes, giving each student about an hour on each simulator. Students seized the chance to immerse themselves in virtual scenarios and test out real-life situations. Instructors were particularly impressed by the realistic feel of the simulators. "One teacher said you can feel the load as you haul it up a hill," Michael Pearson, District Vice Principal Career Programs, shared. "He said it was an amazing experience, and this is coming from a previous and highly experienced driver."

Read the [full event recap on the RoadShow blog](#).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Over the course of the RoadShow, the trailer will make its way to all four corners of BC, and we want to encourage all the BC Road Builders to get involved. If you're interested in volunteering to help with the event when the RoadShow visits your town, please reach out using the [contact form on the RoadShow website](#).

FOLLOW THE ROADSHOW

- For event recaps, photos, and other important info, follow the RoadShow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- Check out the [RoadShow Spotify playlist](#) to hear what Ken's listening to on his cross-province journey.
- Visit the RoadShow [Route page](#) to see where it's going next.







MENTAL WELLNESS PROGRAM



Wellness is more than just physical, and BCRB is committed to supporting our people in every area of life. That's why we offer a mental wellness program—available free-of-charge to all BCRB & HCA member companies. Our program is designed for the sector, so it delivers actionable information in easy-to-access and relatable ways. With a proven track record in supporting our members, we have extensive and highly-relevant expertise.

The program delivers monthly digital resources with theme-specific materials, including:

- Multiple short educational pieces
- Multiple toolbox talks
- Site posters
- An engaging, self-paced online course, delivering informative multimedia content, including practical tips and links to other resources.

When it comes to mental illness and mental health struggles, we know it isn't always comfortable to speak up. But no one has to suffer alone. We want all our people to have the support they need to be healthy and safe both physically and mentally. If you're curious about learning more or want to sign up, contact us at wellness@roadbuilders.bc.ca, call 604.436.0220, or [visit the webpage](#).

UPCOMING BCRB & HCA EVENTS

Save the date! You won't want to miss these upcoming Road Builders events in 2024:

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

September 15 - 17, 2024

Annual Fall Business Conference taking place September 15 - 17, 2024 at the Westin Resort & Spa in Whistler, BC.



2024 AGM AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

December 5 - 7, 2024

Our Annual General Meeting and festive celebrations will be taking place December 5 - 7, 2024 at the beautiful Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, BC.





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