

Vancouver Wins 2010 Games!

Did you know.....

The Vancouver Golf Club, set up in 1892 on the driftwood-strewn sand dunes of Jericho Beach, was the first golf course west of Mississippi. The course used tomato cans for holes.

Jeremiah Rogers set up Vancouver's first logging camp and named the site Jericho (originally know as Jerry's Cove), after the Biblical Jeremiah, who also lived in Jericho.

The first zoning bylaw in Canada was passed by the Municipality of Point Grey in 1922. The bylaw prevented development of anything but homes and their related outbuildings.



Unless you have been living in a cave, you know that Vancouver has been selected to be the Host City for the 2010 Winter Games. Here in a nutshell is some specific information to help the construction industry plan to participate in over \$650 million of capital construction.

The 2010 Sea to Sky Games – Quick Facts:

Dates:

Olympic Winter Games: February 12-28, 2010

Paralympic Winter Games: March 12-21, 2010

Number of athletes and officials expected: 5,000

Number of Games events tickets available: 1.8 million.

Sports:

Vancouver: Freestyle, Snowboarding and all the Ice sports: hockey, figure skating, curling, speed skating, short track speed skating

Whistler: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Sports (Cross Country Skiing, Ski Jumping and Biathlon), Sliding Sports (Bobsleigh, Luge and Skeleton) and Paralympic Sports.

What Happens Now?

Now that Vancouver is successful in its bid, a transition entity will be formed to manage the shift to an Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) that will be created to manage the planning for and operating of the Vancouver 2010 Games. The transition entity will be a very small organization whose primary responsibility will be to form the OCOG. Transition work will be complete by December, 2003. It is expected that an OCOG will be formed by November or December of 2003.

When it reaches its fully operational stage in 2009, the OCOG is a large organization of more than 1,000 employees. However, the organization starts out very small for the first few years.

What about Procurement?

The Bid Corporation cannot make commitments to any suppliers on behalf of a prospective organizing committee (OCOG). Operational decisions are left to the OCOG once it is formed. In its early

stages, the OCOG is primarily planning entity and may also include construction arm.

Following the IOC's decision to award the Games on July 2, the subsequent formation of an OCOG is anticipated for late fall, 2003.

The Province of BC has compiled some information to assist businesses in taking advantage of the opportunities arising from the Games. This can be accessed at

www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/2010Secretariat/PlanforGold.pdf.

The procurement process for the acquisition of goods and services will be an open and public process. Public tenders will be employed for larger acquisitions. The OCOG will develop a website aimed at providing information about prospective procurement activities. In the very early stages, much of what is acquired by the OCOG will be related to the office operations of the organization, construction activities, including design, environmental work, etc. and Games specific expertise for early planning. As planning develops and procurement processes are finalized, it is expected that the OCOG will be in a position to identify its needs well in advance of the actual procurement.

Businesses interested in supplying goods or services to the OCOG had to firstly await the decision of the IOC on July 2, to determine whether an OCOG would be formed in Vancouver. Now that Vancouver is successful, suppliers should await the formation of the OCOG and monitor its development over time.

As the procurement function is developed, the OCOG will be better able to communicate when specific goods and services are required through its website and other tools.

VRCA will be following the process closely and keeping its members advised on any developments affecting construction.

Courtesy: Keith Sashaw, President of Vancouver Regional Construction Association

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Committee to Review Safety Regulations

Regulations for the new Safety Standards Act will be drafted over the coming months. The Act delegates responsibility for inspection services to the new BC Safety Authority. Eleven local governments have also delegated their responsibility to administer gas and electrical safety services. In the interest of ensuring that public and worker safety are protected while eliminating unnecessary red tape, the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services has set up a Minister's Review Committee (MRC) to provide advice.

The MRC will be looking at the following regulations:

- Safety Standards General Regulation
- Electrical Safety Regulation
- Elevating Devices Safety Regulation
- Gas Safety Regulation
- Power Engineer, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation
- Pilot Equivalent Standards Agreement

Regulation

- Administrative Monetary Penalty and Offences Regulation.

The review will be focused on public and worker safety; reducing red tape and regulator intervention; seeking objective based language; and accountabilities among stakeholders.

Keith Saddlemeyer has been appointed by the Minister to act as an independent chair for the Committee. Saddlemeyer is a management consultant trained in law, economics, finance and administration who has held a broad range of senior positions in the Government of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Canada.

Invited to sit on the Committee are:

- Abigail Fulton, BC Construction Assoc.
- Paul La Branche, Building Owners and Managers Assoc.

- Phil Hochstein, Independent Contractors and Business Assoc.
- Bob Wing, Heavy Industry Training Advisory Committee
- Jim Sinclair, BC Federation of Labour
- Gary Kroeker, BC and Yukon Building and Construction Trades Assoc.
- Judy Rogers, City of Vancouver
- Lori Wanamaker, Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety Standards

The MRC is expected to deliver a report with recommendations to the Minister no later than October 15, 2003.

Courtesy: BCCA Bulletin

Editor's Note: The Executive Director of ECABC wasn't invited to the party, so he invited himself as Chair of the Council of Construction Trade Associations. He is currently awaiting a response.

ECABC 52nd Annual General Meeting & Hall of Fame Dinner



Gerry Lane

ECA staged its 52nd Annual General Meeting and Hall of Fame Dinner on Friday, June 6, 2003, at the Hilton Vancouver-Metrotown in beautiful downtown Burnaby. The AGM was followed by a reception and dinner for close to 100 guests. There was music, entertainment, speeches, awards, a sumptuous buffet and more. Afterwards, **Wayne Dowler**, **Gerry Lane** and **Cliff Pilkey** were inducted into the Hall of Fame. **Andrew Watt** of Canem Systems was also recognized for once again winning the Provincial Skills Canada Competition and coming in a close second last month at the national competition in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario.



Cliff Pilkey



Wayne Dowler

....and of course the other guy in all these pictures is ECABC President Bob Leese.



Andrew Watt

Guest Opinion by Bob Blakely, Director of Canadian Affairs, *Canadian Office, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO*

BC training upheaval called worrisome

The recent upheaval of the apprenticeship and training system in British Columbia is worrisome and threatens the implementation of a sound human resources development strategy for the construction industry in Canada.

To satisfy specific local requirements, without concern for the overall health of the industry, some governments and contractor groups are promoting an agenda that will destroy the concept of a trades person as we know it. Provincial governments own and control apprenticeship programs. They are vulnerable to pressures to change the system to cater to interest groups that don't have the welfare of the overall construction industry as their top priority. Some employer groups and government agencies, driven by short-term contractor-specific economic expediency, are advocating for so-called "modular training" or "skill sets."

In plain language, this policy will result in a plethora of low-skilled workers with low wages, low benefits and low competency levels. This de-skilling of the trades will further inhibit the mobility of workers so essential in the construction industry.

If your arm is broken, you don't want to hear that your doctor has only completed the "lower limbs module." You expect him or her to be well versed in all aspects of the doctoring trade. We expect no less from our members in their respective trades.

Armies of "door-knob installers" and other specialty trades are a disser-

vice to the long-term development and prosperity of the construction industry and its workforce.

A sound human resources development strategy for the construction industry in Canada must be centered around the promotion of high-skilled and rewarding trades that will attract young recruits, compulsory certification and registration of tradespersons to ensure quality work and combat the underground economy, the expansion of the Red Seal Program, standardized training curricula and uniform sequencing for apprentices across Canada that will enhance the mobility of our workforce.

To this end, the Building Trades wholeheartedly support and participate in the work of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum and the Construction Sector Council. These bodies are embarked on the important task of planning and implementing policies and programs that will ensure a well-trained and professional workforce for the future.

Should you concur with our vision, do not hesitate to share your views with politicians and government officials both federally and provincially, and warn them of the perils and shortsightedness of the current trend in British Columbia.

Issues of integrity of the trades, inter-provincial mobility and national standards are paramount for the future growth of an efficient, flexible and productive construction industry in Canada.

Courtesy: Journal of Commerce

Lifelong headaches

Fred was moderately successful golfer, but as he got older he was increasingly hampered by incredible headaches. His golf, personal hygiene and love life started to suffer, he managed to push on, but when his game turned really sour he sought medical help. After being referred from one specialist to another, he finally came across a doctor who solved the problem.

"The good news is I can cure your headaches, the bad news is that it will require castration. You have a very rare condition, which causes your testicles to press up against the base of your spine. The pressure creates one hell of a headache. The only way to relieve the pressure and allow your swing to work again is to remove the testicles."

Fred was shocked and depressed. He wondered if he has anything to live for, but then figured at least he could play reasonable golf again. He decided he had no choice but to go under the knife. When he left the hospital, his mind was clear, but he felt like he was missing an important part of himself. As he walked down the street, he realized that he felt like a different person. He could make a new beginning, swing free, and live a new life. He went to the club for a drink and as he walked past the Pro shop thought, "That's what I need: a new outfit."

He entered the shop and told the salesman, "I'd like some new golf slacks." The salesman eyed him briefly and said, "Let's see . . . size 44 long." Fred laughed, "That's right, how did you know?" "It's my job." Fred tried on the slacks, they fitted perfectly. As Fred admired himself in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How

about a new shirt, I've got some great new Nicklaus stock."

Fred thought for a moment and then said, "Sure . . ." The salesman eyed Fred and said, "Let's see. . . 34 sleeve and . . . 16 and half neck" Fred was surprised, "That's right, how did you know?" "It's my job." Fred tried on the shirt, and it fitted perfectly. As Fred adjusted the collar in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How about new shoes, we just got new stock with soft spikes" Fred was on a roll and agreed. The salesman said, "Let's see. . . 9 and a half. . . wide."

Fred was astonished, "That's right, how did you know?" "It's my job." Fred tried on the shoes and they fit perfectly. Fred walked comfortably around the shop and the salesman asked, "How about a new hat?" Without hesitating, Fred said, "Sure . . ." The salesman eyed Fred's head and said, "Let's see. . . 7 5/8." Fred was really impressed, "That's right, how did you know?" "It's my job."

The hat fit perfectly. Fred was feeling great, when the salesman asked, "How about some new underwear, got some great new imported stock." Fred thought for a second and said, "Sure . . ." The salesman stepped back, eyed Fred's waist and said, "Let's see. . . size 36." Fred laughed, "No, I've worn size 34 since I was 18 years old." The salesman shook his head, "You can't wear a size 34 - every time you swing it would press your testicles up against the base of your spine and give you one hell of a headache."



Contractors hit hard by insurance hikes By: Brian Martin

Insurers blame increased claims, stock market losses

If you want to see an entire room of contractors fall instantly silent you need only mention one word.

The word is “insurance.” It’s hard to think of any other subject that will catch the attention of a contractor more quickly these days than the “i” word.

It’s a concern that’s not limited to the world of construction, either. Consumers everywhere have been noticing increases in their personal insurance premiums.

When it comes to construction it is more than a matter of being annoyed. For many firms it is a matter of survival. Increases in premium rates for liability insurance of 200 and 300 per cent are being seen. Wilson M. Beck Insurance Services is among the largest brokers of contract bonding and contract insurance in B.C. CEO Wilson M. Beck, formed the company 22 years ago. The firm, which is largely a family affair, has offices in Burnaby and Kelowna.

David and Graham Beck, sons of the founder, sat down with *Construction in Vancouver* recently to discuss the problems facing the insurance industry and its clients.

Simply put there are two main culprits that have pushed premiums ever higher.

One has been a terrible series of losses over at least a decade. Many of them have been environmental — hurricanes and floods in the U.S. and Europe as well ice storms in Europe and Canada. Then, of course, there are the high profile terrorist disasters. The largest of those was the \$40-billion loss that came from New York’s World Trade Center.

But there have been many others.

Specifically, in British Columbia, the billion dollars — or more — in losses that are be-

ing generated by the “leaky condo crisis” have simply poured gasoline on an already hot fire.

The second culprit is something most Canadians have felt personally. That is the collapse of returns on stocks and bonds. For years insurance companies have been using the returns from their investment portfolios to shore up the underwriting side of their operations.

That cushion is no longer there and losses on the insurance side are now being covered totally by premiums collected. In addition, a good many insurance and reinsurance companies have simply left the business. Either they went broke or they decided there were safer ways to make a living.

“To simplify it,” says Graham Beck, “the number of re-insurers available to the insurance companies has been cut in half.” He does not argue with figures being tossed around by the construction industry.

“We’re seeing increases anywhere from a conservative 20 to 30 per cent for a company with a clean loss history — in other words, no claims — to rates that have gone up anywhere from three to six times.

Among the groups having particular problems are roofers and road contractors. For example Zurich Canada, an industry giant, has simply left the business of insuring road builders.

“Regardless of losses, regardless of how long you’ve been a client, and regardless of how much money you’ve paid over the years” says Graham, “many insurers have decided a company no longer meets their “target class” and hence there are no renewal terms available.”

That, of course, means brokers have to scramble to find another insurance company for their clients from an ever-diminishing supply. There is no doubt there are now

contractors out there who working without liability insurance.

Remediation contractors are likely the worst situation. These are companies repairing the Lower Mainland’s notorious leaking condominiums. A large part of problem they’re facing is possibility the repairs they’re making may not work. Not all insurance companies are convinced the repairs won’t fail, leaving them with massive liability claims a few years down road. Currently, in British Columbia, there is no statute of limitations such claims. The industry is lobbying for a 10-year cap.

Another problem is that insurance companies have a finite pool of money they are willing to put into specific category. Once that is gone, there is no more capacity. Anyone applying for coverage after that point out of luck — no matter how good their record is. Several Vancouver area remediation contractors have fallen through that particular crack the system.

Bonding has not been hit nearly hard, says Graham’s brother, David, has increased once by about 25 cent over the past seven years. The depth and amount of information contractor will now have to supply his bonding company is far greater than it used to be. Among other things, of course, they now want make sure a contractor has effective liability insurance.

On the brighter side of the coin, both the Becks insist that there is light at the end of the tunnel.”

Insurance is a cyclical market, they say, and with some decent underwriting results and additional capacity we should be approaching the end of a very nasty cycle. Barring some catastrophic event they expect the industry should soon start to stabilize.

Courtesy: Construction in Vancouver (a Business in Vancouver Advertising Supplement)

Back in Town

Earl Stewart of Commonwealth Construction, has returned to B.C. after 13 months in Regina, Sask. working on a large refinery project, and is in the market for a full time position in the estimating, purchasing or project management field. Should you have any requirements please contact Earl at **604-431-6000**, **604-582-9240** or E-Mail earl.stewart@veco.com

Passages

Sadly, **Trevor Parkes** passed away on June 14th, 2003, after a valiant fight against cancer. Trevor has worked for Ricketts-Sewell Electric, State Electric, Harbourview Electric and finally at Mott Electric. Trevor was well liked and well respected as an electrician. The ECABC board of directors and staff wish to extend their sincere condolences to Trevor’s family and all who knew him.



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Schedule of Events

July 30, 2003
 Vancouver Chapter Fireworks Dinner Cruise
 Westin Bayshore Marina

September 11, 2003
 Vancouver Island Chapter Meeting,
 BC Location TBA

September 17, 2003
 Vancouver Chapter Meeting
 Accent Inn, Burnaby, BC

September 19, 2003
 Vancouver Chapter Golf Tournament
 Country Meadows Golf Course, Richmond, BC

September 23, 2003
 Seminar
 The Reality of Change Orders by ACCUBID
 Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria, BC

September 24, 2003
 Seminar
 The Reality of Change Orders by ACCUBID
 Executive Inn, Burnaby, BC

October 2, 2003
 BCEA Electrical Showcase
 Abbotsford, BC

Summer Vacation? You're Covered

Q: I have a family benefits package with the BCCA Group Benefit Plan, and I'll be traveling outside of BC this summer with my family. Do we need to purchase out-of-province or out-of-country health insurance?

A: No. You're already covered.

If you, your spouse, and your dependent(s) all have Extended Health Care (EHC) coverage through the BCCA Plan, your benefits cover the additional costs of out-of-province medical emergencies occurring elsewhere in Canada and around the world. As well, Medi-Assist, which is included under your EHC coverage, provides you with valuable non-medical services while you are traveling.

Q: What about MSP coverage?

A: The BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) will help to cover medically necessary services anywhere in the world, but only to the amount payable had these services been provided in BC. Any higher charges are not covered.

That's why it makes sense to have a benefit program like the BCCA Group Benefit Plan in place so that these extra costs (which can be very high in foreign countries) are covered.

Q: What exactly does my EHC Plan cover?

A: In a medical emergency, an employee, spouse, or dependent traveling outside their normal province of residence has coverage for expenses such as:

ambulance charges to the nearest hospital for essential care needed hospital room and inpatient charges physician's fees, laboratory fees, x-ray services prescription drugs that are medically necessary to alleviate the medical condition

Q: What is a medical emergency?

A: A medical emergency is a sudden, unexpected occurrence of an acute condition demanding immediate medical attention.

Examples:

- 1) Doug, an employee, is vacationing at Disneyland (California) with his family. Doug's 13-year old son ends up with a broken leg. Medical expenses over and above what the BC MSP covers are eligible for reimbursement.
- 2) Mary, an employee, and her spouse Don are vacationing in Cancun. Don, who has a controlled heart condition, has a sudden heart attack on the beach. Because Don's heart condition has been controlled up to the time of the heart attack, all medical expenses beyond what BC MSP covers are eligible for reimbursement.

Note: If Don's heart condition had not been under control prior to the trip, that is, if it was a pre-existing condition that was not being controlled, then Don's medical emergency would not have qualified for reimbursement.

Q: What should I do to make sure my out-of-province claim is handled smoothly?

A: Carry your Medi-Assist card along with your EHC and Dental cards when you travel.

Midi-Assist cards should be carried by all employees in the firm who have EHC coverage through the BCCA Plan. The cards display the appropriate phone number to call in the case of an out-of-province medical emergency, as well as the Medi-Assist Group number. Medi-Assist is a world-wide network that provides assistance with the following:

- locating medical care
- providing medical advice
- confirming coverage
- arranging evacuation
- helping replace lost passports and locating legal advice



If you have any questions about the BCCA Group Benefit plan out-of-country travel coverage, or if you require a new supply of Medi-Assist cards, please contact us at 604.683.7353 or 1.800.665.1077.

Courtesy: BCCA InfoSite

CECA Conference in St John's a Great Success

The Canadian Electrical Contractors Association 4th Annual Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, June 18 – 21 was a great success. Sponsored by the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario, it was well attended with many delegates from Ontario and across Canada. An interesting and informative business program was nicely balanced with a variety of tourist related activities. Despite the distance, BC was well represented with a total of 20 attendees including spouses. Several in our group took advantage of the opportunity and spent some time in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island before or after the conference. Next year, the CECA conference will be held in Charlottetown, PEI, so if you weren't able to make it down to the Maritimes this year, you'll have another opportunity in 2004.



Once you kissed the cod and drank the screech.....

You got to call yourself an official **Screecher!!**

