



# The EXCAVATOR



## Digging Around GCS

◆ STAFF COUNT IS ~ 195



### OLYMPIA HEALTH BENEFITS

Olympia Health Benefits

reimbursement can now be deposited directly into your bank account. Forms to sign up for direct deposit are available online through your "My Olympia" account or you can request the form from the Site Office or Hardisty Office.



### PAYROLL NEWS

Did you know you can access your T4's, view your hours, subsistence and any notes posted by the office by logging in to the **Payworks** site using the login information given to you when you signed up for electronic paystubs.

If you haven't yet signed up for electronic paystubs, email [tara@gregscontracting.ca](mailto:tara@gregscontracting.ca) and sign up today!



### DID YOU KNOW

That you can get the GCS newsletter delivered directly to your inbox every month. To sign up go to our website our website or email [sheralee@gregscontracting.ca](mailto:sheralee@gregscontracting.ca)



### Equipment Activity

External Rentals - 14

Hello Everyone!

We seem to finally be getting a bit of summer sunshine coming through after too many days and months of rain and cool weather, which has definitely not helped our jobs or paychecks out in a positive way! Things look very positive for the fall, winter and next year, we have bid many projects and are hopeful to pick up the ones that will keep us all busy for the winter and spring!

On a safety note, I would like to remind everyone that all incidents and near misses whether it is a property damage, personal injury, or concern **MUST** be reported to your Foreman immediately and he/she must report it **IMMEDIATELY** to the site Safety or the site Superintendent so that the paperwork and notifications can be made to upper management! We are finding out about things from small injuries to broken windows way too long after the fact, so please make sure you report everything immediately.

Have an awesome August, enjoy the weather, the work and Stay Safe!!

Thanks  
Greg Schmidt



## PROJECT UPDATES

**R**ed Deer Shop - The shop has been keeping busy with the last of the big equipment, D8's and 450 hoes. The small jobs on them keep turning into bigger projects, for example we had one D8 that should have been a simple roller change and it turned into a rebuild of the bogie as someone had welded the roller in. On the positive, the apprentices are gaining lots of valuable experience! We have been anxiously awaiting the new service truck, as right now we are throwing some tools in the 1 ton and heading out to fix equipment. We are working on a new system to stop the slow leaking rock truck tires and hopes to have it up and running soon.

**H**ardisty Operations - We are currently in the process of hauling gravel to Job 191 and Crusher #2 has started making material for job 193, Crusher #1 has completed Job 183 and are in demobilizing and moving to a

pit near Innisfail. The shop has been extremely busy with lots of repairs going on with the trucking fleet.

**V**irden Operations - The Virden office finally had some time to paint Jim's office thanks to Karen O., the dark dull wallboard has been replaced with a fresh coat of paint and some great family pictures. GCS is an event sponsor for the 118th Annual Elkhorn Agriculture Society Fair that is being held on July 26 in Elkhorn, MB. We are also glad to be an event sponsor for the Canadian High School Rodeo being held in Virden on Aug 4, 5 and 6 that will bring high school contestants from across Canada.

**E**nbridge Cheecham - Job #126 - Dean and crew are finishing up a few extras on site and then this project will be completed.

(Continued on page 2)

**C**ord - Christina Lake, AB - Job # 149 - Chris and Dave and their crew are busy placing gravel around the fire water skid and backfilling, placing sand in the 12" line ditch, placing sand in the electrical ditch at the pump house, and backfilling and compacting around the ground line ditches. They have completed the pad between the substation and utility building and are continuing to backfill around the 24" and 8" risers.

**C**ord - Hardisty, AB - Job # 163 - we currently have one operator on site excavating a key trench for liner installation.

**E**nbridge - Edmonton, AB - Job # 169/172 - Bud and Darcy are working as required with a small crew to wrap up this project.

**H**azco - Virden, MB - Job # 175 - Kelvin has been working steady hauling material up to July 7, we are currently waiting for the client to get results back from testing material so we can continue.

**E**nbridge - Cheecham - Job # 177 - Dean, Frank and crew have started on the excavation for this project.

**C**ord - Smoky Lake - Job # 179 - Glenn and crew are busy excavating in the pump station, installing 8" culverts in the MCC area, laying geotextiles, compacting gravel, excavating the drainage ditch and installing gravel at the pump station and in the west ditch. Building of the berm on the north east end of the site is almost complete.



All individuals attending any field sites must have the following certificates and training:

- WHMIS
- CSTS/IRP 16/ or equivalent
- Ground Disturbance Level II – Approved by the Alberta Damage Prevention Council 201 Standard
- Standard First Aid Level C (provided by Canadian Red Cross/St John's Ambulance/or equivalent)
- H2S Alive (provided by EnForm)

**"Current Employees"** are required to keep all of the above certifications current, regardless of location and are expected to book and pay for each course. Upon successful certification of the course, G.C.S. will reimburse all current employees for the full price of the course when:

- A copy of the certificate is submitted,
- A copy of the receipt is submitted,
- An expense claim form is completed and submitted.

The reimbursement will be allotted for on the following pay cheque.

**C**ord - Lac La Biche - Job # 180 - Kasey and crew have been cleaning up and trimming swale east of the pump building, removing excess clay north of the building, spreading and compacting gravel east of the building. They have also been spreading and compacting clay along the east of the building and inside the pump building. They have completed the clay subgrade south of pump side of the pump building and are exposing the liner on the north side of the road from the main gate to widen the road.

**B**order Paving - Morningside, AB - Job # 183 - has been completed and are currently demobilizing and moving to a pit near Innisfail.

**E**nbridge - Edmonton, AB - Job # 185 - Darcy and a crew of 60+ have been doing lots of pumping and dragging hoses through the mud with all the rain, even with all the rain they are on schedule (Great job all!!) and Layfield has started laying liner for the first tank and the second tank will follow right after. Sheet piling is complete and work on the firewater lines in phase II is underway.

**F**lint Hills - Hardisty, AB - Job # 186 - has been completed for the time being.

**E**nbridge - AB/SK/MB - Job # 189 - Klinton and a small crew completed the last site on June 27 ahead of schedule. Great job all!

**G**ibson Energy - Hardisty, AB - Job # 191 - Duwayne and crew are progressing nicely with Milepost and Rite-way fencing on

site. Duwayne is putting final sand and sumps in the tank foundations left over from last years work as well as building roads and working on the containment pond.

**E**nerplus - Cromer, MB - Job # 192 - is currently on hold until the leases dry up.

**A**llied Paving - Tennant Pit - Job # 193 - The crew on Crusher #2 has been busy making material for this project.

**C**ord - Waupisoo - Job # 194 - Dean and crew got this project kicked off the second week of July, they have dug in the sump tank and are in the process of backfilling, the liner on the finished pad under the metering skid is complete and they are working on building water diversion berms.

**P**MCL - Hardisty, AB - Job #196 - we are supplying a hoe and operator to import 20, 40 and 80mm crush.

**P**etrobank - Kerrobert, SK - Job # 197 - Grant and crew mobilized to site July 7 and 8 and have completed the site grading and trimming of the containment pond for liner installation, the client has added 5 more sites for us to build roads and do site grading.

**T**undra Red Bed Resources - Cromer, MB - Job # 198 - We have two operators currently on this project who have begun building an access road and reclaiming one site and starting a new build. The forecast looks promising and there is lots of work to be completed this year.



## Safety Training Courses

All **"new hires"** gaining certification in the above courses, after January 1, 2011, G.C.S. will reimburse the individual for the full price of the course when:

- A copy of the certificate is submitted,
- A copy of the receipt is submitted,
- An expense claim form is completed and submitted.

The reimbursement will be allotted for on the 2<sup>nd</sup> pay period following employment.

**G.C.S. does not pay employees for any time participating in the above courses.**

All individuals performing work shall have the proper education, experience and training before attempting a job. All on the job training will be documented and placed on the employee's file.



A recent Canadian Red Cross study covering boating deaths in Canada (1991 to 2006) found that of 2,232 people who drowned or died of hypothermia, only 12% were wearing a life jacket properly

85% of boating deaths occur in Canada's fresh waterways.

393 recreational boaters drowned in B.C (1991-2006) = 18% of all such deaths in Canada.

Contributing factors:

- lack of flotation devices,
- water temperature, and
- drinking alcohol

-Canadian Red Cross

68% of drowning victims were not wearing a flotation device, and of those, 27% of motorboaters had life-vests on board but chose not to wear them,

13% of people in non-motorized boats died with their flotation devices stowed out of reach

-(1991-2006)

Boaters who don't have enough life vests on board face a fine of \$200, +\$100 for every additional life-vest they're missing

-2010

2/5 boat shoppers are 1st-time buyers. Boat buyers/sellers are part of a \$26.8 billion industry in Canada.

-National Marine Manufacturers Association  
-2010

9 million Canadians participate in recreational boating each year  
200 will die in accidents on the water,  
6,000 will suffer non-fatal injuries

-2009

A pleasure craft is any boat that is used only for pleasure activities like fishing, water sports and entertaining friends. It also includes a boat used for subsistence hunting and fishing or for the necessities of daily life. It does not include a boat that is used for work or commercial activities.

Regulations set a minimum safety standard. They are made to improve boating safety, so following them or an even higher standard will help make every trip a safe one. Find it online at [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca).

Pleasure Craft Operator Card / Carte de conducteur d'embarcation de plaisance

Name / Nom		Card Number / Numéro de la carte	
Date of Birth / Date de naissance		Date of Issue / Date d'émission	
Yo-Aa	Mo-M Day-Ji	Yo-Aa	Mo-M Day-Ji

Canada 100



Anyone who operates a motorized pleasure craft must now carry proof of competency on board. A proof of competency shows that the boater has a basic level of boating safety knowledge needed for safe recreational boating. In the past, anyone of any age could operate a recreational boat without any basic boating safety knowledge, experience or training. Proof of competency requirements were introduced in 1999 in response to boating deaths and injuries, with the goal of improving safety on Canadian waterways through education and training.

Youth under 16 years of age may not operate boats with motors over certain horsepower limits unless someone 16 years of age or older is in the boat and directly supervising them. Youth under 16 years of age may not operate a personal watercraft (PWC) under any circumstances.

- ❖ Under 12 years of age with no direct supervision May operate a boat with up to 7.5 kW (10 hp)
- ❖ Ages 12 to under 16 with no direct supervision May operate a boat with up to 30 kW (40 hp)
- ❖ Under 16 years of age, regardless of supervision May not operate a PWC 16 years of age or older No horsepower restrictions

Men are the primary drowning victims.

Between 1991 and 2000, toddlers and males aged 15 to 24 had the highest drowning rates, followed by males over 24,

-Canadian Red Cross-

Having a life jacket, but not wearing it, could cost you your life. Even though it's not mandatory for most boats, PUT IT ON!

EVERY YEAR, 180 Canadians will drown while boating and 400 will die in all water-related accidents.

Nearly 90% of those who die won't be wearing a life-jacket - the most common risk factor for recreational boating drownings. Only 11% of drowning victims wear personal flotation devices.



**Kayaking**

Kayaks and lifejackets should be brightly colored (red, yellow, orange) to be easily seen by other boat operators. Keep signalling devices within easy reach for emergencies.

Sea kayakers should be aware of water temps, tides, wind, currents, and maritime traffic. For more information on sea kayaking, checkout the *Sea Kayaking Safety Guide* at

[www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)

-Transport Canada

**PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (PWC)**

Safe use of a personal watercraft requires skill and experience. Operators must be at least 16 years old with proof of competency and proof of age on board; and must make sure that anyone who borrows the PWC knows how to operate it safely and responsibly.



- ❖ Always wear a Canadian-approved lifejacket (inflatable PFDs are not allowed) red, orange or yellow make it easy for others to see you.
- ❖ Wear thermal protection when operating in cold water (water less than 15° C)
- ❖ Read the owner's manual before setting out
- ❖ Attach the engine shut-off line securely to your wrist or lifejacket
- ❖ Respect speed limits and other vessel operation restrictions
- ❖ Be cautious, courteous and respect others. Many people dislike the noise a PWC makes when it is operated for long periods of time at high speeds in one place, especially when it is used to jump waves
- ❖ Be aware of the impact your PWC can have on the environment. Avoid high speeds near shore
- ❖ Stay alert! At high speeds, it's hard to see swimmers, water skiers, divers and other PWCs in time to avoid them.
- ❖ Do not operate your PWC after dark or when visibility is poor.
- ❖ Make sure your PWC is properly licensed and marked.
- ❖ Do not start your PWC if you smell gasoline or fumes in the engine compartment. Have a qualified technician check it.
- ❖ Replace the engine cover or seat before starting.

To learn more about operating a PWC, check out the *Safety Rules and Tips for Personal Watercraft (PWC) Use* brochure at [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)

-Transport Canada

**DISTANCE FROM BELOW SURFACE DIVERS**

Diving is a popular water sport so, know what a diver down flag looks like and keep careful watch for such flags. The wake from the boat, along with weather and other factors, can make it hard to see divers' bubbles on the surface of the water.

Divers' boats must display the international blue and white Code Flag Alpha.

A red and white flag that may be carried on a buoy marks the area where diving is in progress, although divers may stray from the boundaries of the marked areas. If you decide to go diving from your boat, remember to display these flags as well.

Best practice includes staying within 100 m (328' ) of your flag

-Transport Canada



**WATERSKIING AND OTHER RECREATIONAL TOWING ACTIVITIES**



The rules that govern waterskiing also apply to other towing activities: skiing, tubing, kneeboarding and parasailing. Here are rules to remember when towing someone with your boat:

- ❖ There must be a spotter on board the boat who can keep watch on each person being towed and communicate with the operator
- ❖ There must be an empty seat on your boat for each person being towed in case they need to come on board
- ❖ Only personal watercraft made to carry three or more people may be used for towing
- ❖ If anyone being towed is not wearing a lifejacket, there must be one on board for him or her
- ❖ No towing is allowed when visibility is poor or from one hour after sunset to sunrise
- ❖ A towing boat cannot be remotely controlled. These requirements do not apply to a boat that is being operated during formal training, in an official competition or in a skill demonstration if the boat meets the safety requirements of a governing body respecting such training, competitions or demonstrations

**PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)**

PFDs are more comfortable than lifejackets because they are designed for constant wear, but do not generally offer the same level of protection as lifejackets. If operating at high speeds, look for a PFD with three or more chest belts for security. If boating in cold water (15° C or less), choose a PFD with some thermal protection. Choose a color that is easily seen in the water. Remember that a PFD may not turn you on your back if you fall in the water. Try the PFD on under supervision and before heading out to make sure you know how to use it. To learn more about choosing a lifejacket or PFD, visit [www.wearalifejacket.com](http://www.wearalifejacket.com).



Lifejackets that are ripped or in poor condition are not considered approved.

Check its buoyancy in waist-deep water and bending your knees to float.

Make sure that straps and zippers are clean and work well.

Tug on straps to ensure they are well.

Dry the lifejacket in open air and avoid direct heat. Store it in a dry, well-ventilated place where it is easy to reach.

Use mild soap and water to clean.

**REDUCING POLLUTION FROM BILGES**

Oil, fuel, antifreeze and transmission fluid are a few examples of pollutants that harm the environment when pumped overboard — usually by automatic bilge pumps. Bilge cleaners, even the biodegradable ones, just break down the oil into tiny, less visible droplets. Absorbent bilge cloths are very useful because they are designed to absorb petroleum products and repel water. Here are a few tips to help keep bilge pollution at a minimum.

- ❖ Make sure your bilge is clean before turning on automatic bilge pumps. Only use them when needed and when the bilge contains only water
- ❖ Use towels or bilge cloths to absorb oils, fuel, antifreeze and transmission fluid. Dispose of used towels or bilge cloths in an approved garbage container

**REMEMBER THESE GREEN BOATING TIPS**

- ❖ Make sure the engine is well maintained to reduce air pollution
- ❖ Use only paints approved for marine use
- ❖ When fuelling, do not top off tanks and clean up any spilled fuel
- ❖ Keep your bilge clean and do not pump oily water overboard.
- ❖ Use bilge absorbents in place of detergents
- ❖ Do not pump your sewage over the side — use a holding tank
- ❖ Obey all sewage regulations
- ❖ Bring your garbage home (including cigarette butts) — do not litter
- ❖ Try not to use detergents — even biodegradable cleaners are hard on plants and animals that live in the water
- ❖ Avoid shoreline erosion — watch your wake and propeller wash
- ❖ Obey all speed limits for better fuel economy
- ❖ Report pollution

**RESPECT AND PROTECT CANADA'S WATERWAYS**

It is against the law to pollute the water with oil, garbage, hydrocarbons and untreated sewage in inland waters. Canada has laws that protect our waterways and shorelines, and some of them apply to pleasure crafts. It is your responsibility to make sure you know and obey the laws in force wherever you go boating.

**Use Environmentally Friendly Cleaners**

All Purpose Cleanser	Mix 30 ml of baking soda or borax, 30 ml of tea tree essential oil, 125 ml of vinegar, 15 ml of biodegradable dish soap and 2 litres of hot water. Spray on the surfaces to be cleaned.
Chromium	Rub with baking soda. Rinse and polish with vinegar in hot water.
Deck & Floor	Pour 250 ml of vinegar in 2 litres of water.
Drain	Pour 60 ml of baking soda in the drain, followed by 60 ml of vinegar. Let it rest for 15 minutes, and then pour in a full kettle of boiling water.
Mould	Add 60 ml of borax and 30 ml of vinegar to 500 ml of hot water. Spray the mixture to eliminate germs.
Toilet Pour	125 ml of baking soda and 125 ml of vinegar into the toilet bowl. The foaming reaction cleans and deodorizes. Brush and flush.
Window and Mirror	Mix 2 ml of liquid soap, 45 ml of vinegar and 500 ml of water in a spray bottle. Use a cotton rag to clean and shine.
Wood (Polish)	Mix 30 ml of edible linseed oil, 30 ml of vinegar and 60 ml of lemon juice in a glass pitcher. Rub the solution into the wood with a soft rag until it is clean. To store the solution, add a few drops of vitamin E from a capsule and cover.

### Sudoku #10

	8	1	6					9
4		7		9		6	8	
6	9					2		
		2	9		7		4	
	1	9				7	6	
	4		3		1	9		
		8					1	4
		4		2		3		7
3					9	8	2	

### Summer Word Search

L	W	N	C	B	O	A	T	I	N	G	U	S	I	J	D	L	K
I	A	M	C	B	A	L	F	H	U	K	R	X	Q	B	I	K	E
J	R	Q	Q	T	S	R	D	X	C	I	L	M	V	E	G	N	D
X	J	F	C	W	U	D	B	Y	D	T	L	Q	B	E	F	U	I
S	D	U	I	S	S	Z	C	E	C	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L
T	M	N	M	N	N	K	H	F	C	Q	B	W	A	S	E	E	S
G	G	K	H	P	D	O	A	B	S	U	Y	D	D	I	N	P	Y
J	O	C	M	C	R	S	R	T	M	Z	E	N	R	R	O	S	J
T	L	A	C	S	T	O	H	K	E	I	L	O	O	F	I	S	H
I	C	G	E	T	W	O	P	E	E	B	L	D	L	O	T	B	C
D	Y	S	G	U	B	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	L	A	A	C	G
F	M	Y	F	P	X	I	S	S	E	L	V	A	E	W	C	I	Q
D	J	F	Z	I	X	L	J	R	P	F	S	N	R	X	A	N	T
P	J	W	A	T	E	R	S	K	I	O	G	O	B	D	V	C	D
Y	Z	P	O	H	D	K	W	H	B	Q	H	E	L	Q	L	I	T
F	W	C	Z	E	A	T	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	V	P	Y
K	E	M	O	T	W	O	M	H	E	G	A	R	D	E	N	L	O
M	A	K	E	S	A	N	D	C	A	S	T	L	E	S	S	U	O

### Brain Teasers



1. A rooster lays an egg at the very top of a slanted roof. Which side is the egg going to roll off on?
2. My daughter has many sisters. She has as many sisters as she has brothers. Each of her brothers has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many sons and daughters do I have?
3. What seven letter word has hundreds of letters in it?
4. Tom's mother has three children, one is named April, one is named May. What is the third one named?
5. You're riding a horse. To the right of you is a cliff, in front of you is an elephant moving at the same pace and you can't overtake it, to the left of you is a hippo running at the same speed and a lion is chasing you. How do you get to safety?

BARBECUE	FISH	SKATEBOARD
BASEBALL	FRISBEE	SLIDE
BIKE	GARDEN	SNORKEL
BIRDWATCH	HIKE	SPELUNK
BOATING	HOPSCOTCH	SURF
CAMP	JUMPROPE	SWIM
CANOE	MAKESANDCASTLES	SWING
CLIMB	PICNIC	VACATION
COLLECTBUGS	RIDEHORSES	VOLLEYBALL
DIVE	ROLLERBLADE	WADE

Answer to June Sudoku # 9

3	4	9	5	1	6	2	7	8
7	6	2	9	8	4	1	5	3
1	8	5	3	2	7	4	9	6
6	5	7	2	4	8	3	1	9
4	2	1	6	3	9	5	8	7
8	9	3	7	5	1	6	4	2
5	7	6	1	9	2	8	3	4
2	1	8	4	7	3	9	6	5
9	3	4	8	6	5	7	2	1

Answers to Brain Teasers: 1. Neither, Roosters don't lay eggs! 2. Four daughters and 3 sons. 3. Mailbox 4. Tom 5. Get off the merry-go-round

### The Original Anti-Theft Mechanism!



Thanks Glenn!



For information or submission of news and interviews, please call Sheralee at the Hardisty Office (780) 888-3845 or email: sheralee@gregscontracting.ca