

# *The Excavator*

*September 2017*



*GCS Energy Services Ltd.*

*From Greg's Desk...*

Hello everyone,

Well summer is gone already. The trees are turning color and the sun is gone sooner so fall is officially here which wouldn't be too bad if it wasn't that much closer to winter.

The good part about this fall is we are starting to see an increase in work and jobs coming out finally. They say the economy is starting to turn for the better so I hope that is true.

I am off to Saskatchewan and Manitoba for a week or so this month to say hello to the crews and clients. Things out East have been fairly positive for GCS and it looks like the fall program will remain that way.

I hope everyone has had a good summer and enjoyed some time off with family and friends. Elana, the kids and I certainly did.

Have a great fall, be safe, work safe and have fun.

Greg

*Staff Count: 153*

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## ***Hardisty Office — Trevor Bitzer***

Well the flowers are beginning to show signs of a well enjoyed summer, as their petals are becoming less lively every day, and the leaves on the trees have already begun changing. The local farmers are deep into harvest as the dust from the fields creates clouds of brown haze, and farm equipment making their appearance on the highways increases. Remember to slow down, drive undistracted, and pass safely!

As summer draws to a close, the local schools resume classes after the long weekend; and along with them, Jayden, our shop labourer, will be headed back as well to complete his grade 12 year. It is still undecided if he will continue part time throughout the schoolyear in some capacity, but he's been a great addition to the team and we wish him well with his last year of high school! And a reminder-- Don't forget to slow down in school zones, never pass a bus with its lights flashing and stop signs out, and drive with caution as children make their way to and from school.

Mr. VP, Trevor Bitzer, just celebrated what most of us were certain was his 50th birthday. He even had the cake to prove it, but to everyone's surprise (and possibly even his own), the half century birthday commemorations, were a tad premature. If for nothing else, the mix up made for a good laugh. He's far too fresh faced for 50 anyway! So next year, we're celebrating his 49th!!

For anyone that has never been to the Hardisty office, and for those who don't frequent here regularly, the town of Hardisty is in for some much needed, and highly overdue, infrastructural changes, all visible from the front windows of our office. Highway 13 is being widened from the Hardisty turnoff intersection, and is expected to continue up to/past the tank farm, with the intersection itself being adjusted in order to line up with the Co-op Cardlock across the highway. It is a very busy section of highway and can be quite dangerous to navigate at times, so it is a much welcomed change. In addition to the highway, it appears Highway 881 into town is getting a face lift too, by preparing for the installation of light poles to line the ditches. So next time you venture this way, it could be a whole new experience!

## ***Hardisty Shop & Crusher —***

### ***Max Devey***

Lots of day to day work for our truck drivers. There are some odd equipment swap outs at CNRL. We have some gravel hauls here and there as well. Crusher 2 is at Wiebe Pit Crushing 12.5mm ACP material for Central City Asphalt. Crusher 1 is at Motz Pit screening for Special Areas. The guys in the shop are busy with rigging up new trucks and demobing the trucks that are for sale. We're catching up on CVIPs and repairs to Manitoba trucks and our fleet as well. We have Braden back in Hardisty right now but he'll go back to Virden in September to help Jim out. We have 5 guys in the shop. Jaden will be going back to school to complete Grade 12.





## *NLS Office & Shop — Greg Singer*

NLS is finally done our renovation and we are very proud of our beautifully renovated indoor work space. There will be some changes on the outside also but that's still in the works. Thanks to Greg Schmidt, Dave, Keith and Brett.... it is very nice.

NLS had a busy early summer then work petered out a little bit with a lot of the engineering groups being on holidays but thankfully it has been picking up recently. NLS was able send a few of our guys to GCS in Virden for support while we were slow. This helped a lot as we were able to weather the slow time, and we were able to call them back when needed. Thanks Jim, and Virden GCS for making our guys welcome.

We have had 3 welders and 2 helpers busy involved in some integrity digs, sleeving with TEML out of Estevan and are wrapping that job up before the September long weekend. This sleeving has been kind of unique as it involves NLS working with another contractor who does not have welders qualified to weld on the live line so our guys who are qualified were able to step up and give them a hand. It's been 3 weeks so the guys are looking forward to getting home and enjoying family and friends before the end of the summer.

Enbridge is starting to pick up as the Central Region has been shuffling people around and work packages are being handled by new personnel so there has been a little bit of a lull. We just finished piping fabrication and testing, as well as structural supports for the Glenavon Station and now the job is going to be coated. We are also looking at starting a structural support for the Regina Terminal soon. Enbridge has recently requested that we provide PLM Regina support with fire watch during an outage as well as NLS travelling to Cromer, MB next week to verify measurement for the PLM tie-ins the following week. We have also been busy going to various Enbridge sites getting measurements and submitting sketches to be drafted so we can fabricate all sorts of structural and piping pieces throughout the region.

K+S has a few jobs that we are looking at which involves hydrotesting some existing lines as well as adding some drain lines to existing pipe spools. NLS has been asked to consider getting some weld procedures that would allow us to weld on the exotic metals on a few of their lines. We are waiting for a quote for this.

NLS was recently a Bronze Sponsor for the 12th Pipeline Of Dreams Golf Tournament. This fund raiser is in support of the Hospitals Of Regina Foundation. Jim and myself were able to host a couple of Enbridge Employees who made it a great day and fun was had by all.

We are anticipating a busy fall going into the winter and we are looking forward to getting a big job along with GCS.





## ***Virден Office & Shop — Jim Moser***

- In August we wrapped up the RM of Wallace road repair thanks to Ivan & his crew.
- Our cleanup crews continue to be busy and we have 5 to 7 separate crews working depending on weather.
- Curtis Robinson and his flow line crew continue working for Tundra.
- We are continuing battery expansion work for Corex Resources. When Randy Schatz left we replaced him with Alvin Coleman and the crew continues to get pats on the back from the client for their efforts.
- We have crews working with Enbridge Mainline doing seeding and general right of way cleanup.
- We also continue to have calls almost daily for cut & caps, small cleanups and several other small jobs to keep our work force busy.



August has been very busy around the Virден area and looks good for a strong fall and winter.

August also is the month that the Virден Indoor Rodeo takes place. This year we were happy to have 5 of our grandchildren take part in the activities. A special thanks to Karen for her efforts in decorating the float for the parade and making the dozer costumes for the 2 boys. The crew on the float and in costumes were Shayna, William, Wyatt, Gaiqe and Maverick...all Mosers.

## ***Red Deer Office & Shop — Gerry Johnson***

We have everyone back from holidays it seems...funny to have a full table during our morning tailgate meeting! We've got the odd rental going out but most of the major winter fleet have all left. Next up we'll be back on big projects like motor jobs and a rear-end on a JCB Loader. We've got a motor for a rock truck bought and will be installing it soon.

## ***Field Projects***

**Job 566 — Pembina —** Still working on ditches and picked up some additional work for some bath-tubbing for some piling. Grader, hoe and rock truck working on this job. 3 guys will be on site for the rest of the job.

**Hardisty Lagoon —** Desludging is complete. We just have to do the final clean-up.

**Job 545 — Revera —** We've had some bad luck with rain so that has put a delay on completion. We are done except one last pour which is tentatively booked for next week and then we'll strip forms. Only a couple days left for complete wrap. There's a generator pad and bicycle rack that needs to go in next spring.

**Job 572 — Chemco —** Completing pre-fabrication for some forms and pile caps. Tentatively we will be on site next week full time with a 10-4 shift once they are ready or us. We will have 11 guys on site for this job.

**Job 548 — CNRL Diesel tank —** We are grading lot floor. Building the east and south berms. Installing liner. Backfilling electrical and mechanical trenches as well as some final grade work. We expect to be on site for at least another 3 weeks.

**Job 563 — CNRL Unit 45 —** We are doing final grade work on the north side and west side as well as excavating for the roads and ditches. Installing geo-grid and gravel. Pouring concrete aprons and installing bollards.

**Job 569 — CNRL Filter Skid —** Piles are installed and excavated for concrete. Just waiting for pre-cast trench boxes to be completed so we can install them.

CNRL has 23 people on site including subs.

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# Safety Corner

Research conducted by Transport Canada shows that school bus travel is one of the safest methods of transportation -- and is **16 times** safer than travelling in the family

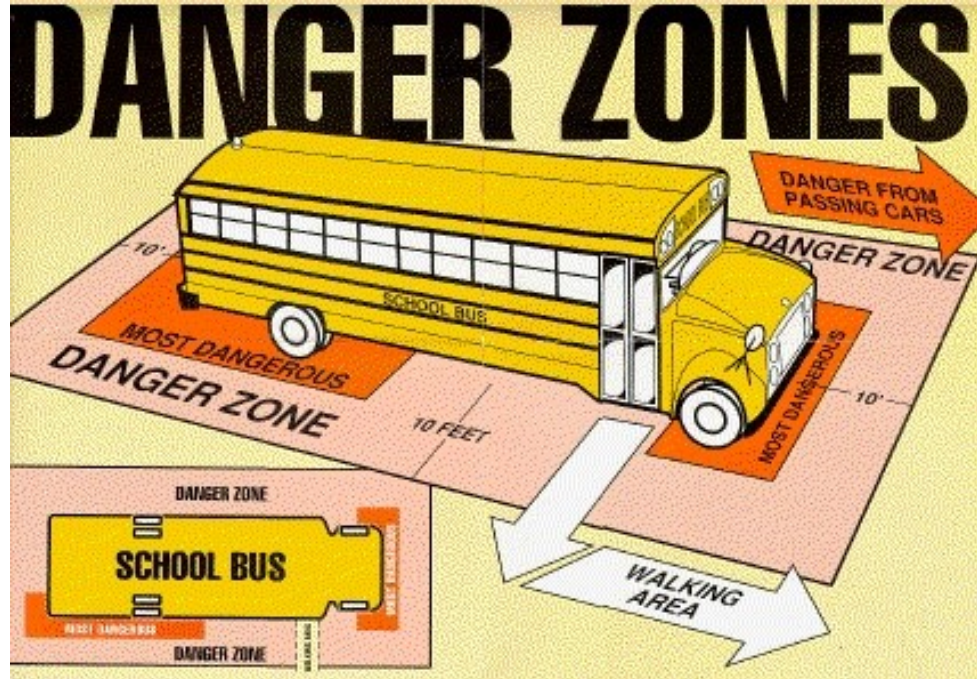
In Canada, pedestrian injuries are one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths for children 14 years of age and younger.

Every driver must remember that when approaching a stopped school bus (on a non-divided road) that has its overhead **red signal-lights flashing** and side stop sign out, must stop before reaching the bus and must not proceed until the overhead red signal-lights have stopped flashing.

Pedestrian casualty collisions were more likely to occur in November. April experienced the least number of pedestrian crashes.

Pedestrian casualty collisions were most likely to occur on Friday and least likely to occur on Sunday.

In 2008, there were **34** pedestrian fatalities and **1,260** injuries on Alberta roads.



In 2008, there were 34 pedestrian fatalities and 1,260 injuries on Alberta roads.

- \*Cross at marked crosswalks or traffic lights, not in the middle of the block or between parked cars;
- \*Make sure drivers see you before you cross;
- \*Cross when traffic has come to a complete stop;
- \*At traffic lights, cross at the beginning of a green light. Do not cross once the "Don't Walk" signal begins to flash or once the light has turned to yellow. \*Never cross on a red light;
- \*Watch for traffic turning at intersections or entering and leaving driveways;
- \*Wear bright or light-coloured clothing or reflective strips, when walking in dusk or darkness.



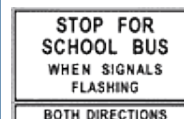
This sign warns that you are coming to a school zone. Slow down, drive with extra caution, and watch for children



This sign warns of a school crossing. Watch for children and follow the directions of the crossing guard or school safety patroller.



This sign warns that you are coming to a school bus stop possibly not in clear view. Slow down, drive with extra caution, and watch for children and for school bus with flashing signal lights.



This sign is installed on multi-lane highways with no center median divider.

Drivers approaching from both directions must stop for a school bus when its signal lights are flashing. Not stopping can lead to fines of \$400-\$2000 & 6 demerit points. 2<sup>nd</sup> offence: fine of \$1000-\$4000, 6 demerit points and up to 6 months in jail.



# Safety Corner

What will it take to make you **stop**?



Fine?  
Imprisonment?  
Felony charge?  
5 points on license?

or **ENDING A CHILD'S LIFE?**

\*Push the button to start the walk signal at the intersection– it gives you extra time.

\*Walk quickly across the street. Never stop in the middle of a crosswalk. Don't run. \*Don't trust crosswalks. Look and listen when crossing the street. Remember that cars are usually looking for other cars, not pedestrians. \*Look all ways – Left, Right, Left.



\*Cross with a group. It is easier to see many people than one person.  
\*Wear white or use a flashlight at night. You will be easier to see.  
\*Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street, looking at the cars. Make sure the drivers see you.

High speed is often a factor in crashes involving pedestrian. Speed affects how often pedestrians get hit and how severely they are injured. When cars are travelling at speeds greater than 30-40 km/h the response time of drivers and pedestrians is impacted. For example, drivers may miscalculate the time it takes to come to a stop, while pedestrians may miscalculate the time needed to safely cross the road. A pedestrian who is struck by a car travelling at 50 km/h has a greater chance of being killed than a pedestrian struck by a car travelling at 30 km/h.

Reducing vehicle speed is proven to prevent crashes and reduce the severity of injuries.

Most small children get hurt near their home. If you have children, always:

\*Hold your child's hand when crossing the street.  
\*Teach them to look left, right, then left again before crossing the street  
\*Fence the yard to keep them away from the street.

Every 6 minutes, a pedestrian is hurt in a traffic accident.

If you can touch the bus, you are too close. Use 10 GIANT STEPS to take you out of the danger zone.

Be sure you can see the driver and that the driver sees you.

If you drop anything in the danger zone, never stop to pick it up.

## DRIVERS:

\*Be patient, especially with older pedestrians who need more time to cross the road;  
\*Always look for pedestrians, especially when turning;  
\*Remember, stay alert and slow down on residential streets and through school zones.  
\*Breaking the law can be costly. Fines for offences at pedestrian crossings, school crossings, and at crosswalks where there are traffic signals are \$150 and 3 demerit points. All fines are double (\$300) in Community Safety Zones near schools and public areas.

Pedestrian casualty collisions were most likely to occur during the evening rush-hour period, 3:00-6:59p.m.

- 41.0% of the drivers in collisions involving a pedestrian were recorded as failing to yield the right of way to the pedestrian.
- The casualty rate per population was highest for pedestrians between the ages of 15 and 19.
- Of pedestrians involved in injury collisions, 14.0% had consumed alcohol before the collision, compared to 50.0% involved in fatal collisions.
- Of those pedestrians who had consumed alcohol prior to the collision, the highest rate of involvement per 10,000 population was for pedestrians 20-24 years of age.



# Hardisty Stampede Parade

**Well, as promised, a marriage for the ages has occurred. Loaded Larry and Dirty Gertie said I Do on a beautiful Saturday in July. The whole town of Hardisty showed up to share there love of each other...and dirt. Cheers to the happy couple!**

**"Dirty" Gertie — The Blushing Bride**



**Loader Larry — The Handsome Groom**



**Jethro — The Ringbearer**



**Loader: Larry (Groom)→ Driven by Braden Bitzer, Gravel Truck: "Dirty" Gertie (Bride)→ Driven by Max Devey, GCS Truck: Jethro (Ringbearer)→ Driven by Katie MacKinnon  
Flower Girls: Marley MacKinnon, Alexa Devey, Brynn Chisan, Kendall Chisan, Lara Dixon**

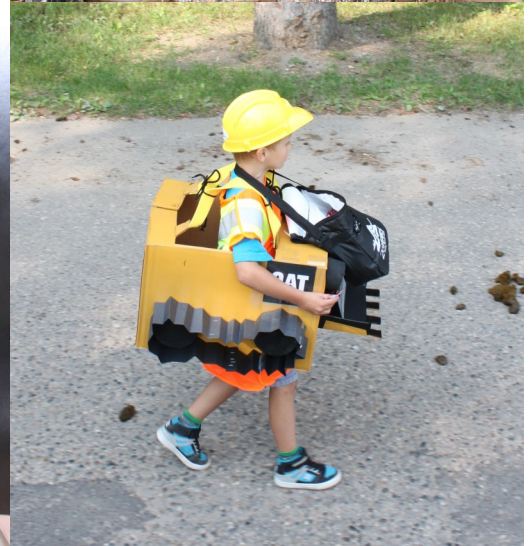
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# Virден Indoor Rodeo & Parade



GCS sponsored the Virден Indoor Rodeo in August. VP Jim Moser handed out an award and logo'd saddle for *Best All Around 2017*. Shayna, Will, Wyatt, Gaige and Maverick Moser did a great job representing GCS in the Parade and a huge Thank-you to Karen Moser (Grandma) for all her hard work on the parade float!



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# Around GCS



**GCS sponsored a hitch wagon for a couple rodeos this summer including: Ponoka Stampede on July Long Weekend and the Rocky Mountain House Rodeo in August.**

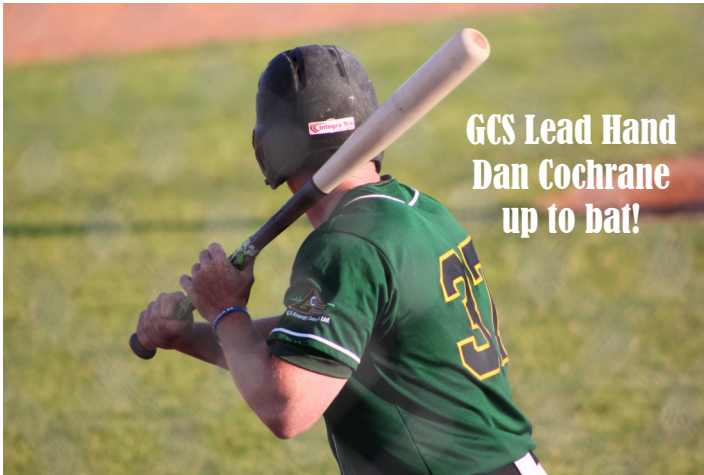


**Our very own Gerry Johnson helped hand out wagon rides in downtown Rocky Mountain House before the rodeo!**

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# ***Around GCS***



**GCS is sponsoring the Virden Oilers baseball team this summer. The Oilers made it to Round 2 of the Playoffs this year!**



***Happy 5 Year Anniversary  
to Shane Brown!***

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