



Yukon Notes

- With clearing and surveying occurring last winter and construction this spring through fall, November saw Phase 1 of the Carmacks-Stewart electrical transmission line completed and the line energized. Several parties contributed financially to the total cost of the transmission line. The Yukon Government provided \$10 million to the project. Sherwood Copper contributed \$7.2 million to the main line as well as covering the entire cost of the spur line to the Minto mine. Remaining costs were covered by the Yukon Energy Corporation and the Yukon Development Corporation

Federal Notes

- The National Energy Board (NEB) monitors supply of all energy commodities in Canada, publishing ultimate potential reports on an ongoing basis. Such reports reflect changes in estimates based on new discoveries or new plays being developed. Such reports can be produced in collaboration with provincial agencies as was the case with a joint report released this month by the NEB and Ministry of Energy and Resources in Saskatchewan. The report estimated “ultimate potential” of marketable conventional natural gas resources at 10.6 trillion cubic feet with 5.3 trillion feet remaining, roughly half already having been produced. Related information can be viewed on the NEB website: <http://www.neb.gc.ca/>

North West Territories Notes

- The Government of the Northwest Territories announced entering into an agreement this month with three diamond mines in an effort to build related workforces. The mines are BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc., Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. and De Beers Canada Inc. They will work cooperatively with government in advancing a Northwest Territories Mining Workforce Initiative. The agreement is intended to advance necessary skills development, training, and travel initiatives, allowing more residents of the Northwest Territories to be employed in the mines. It also intends to identify strategies for attracting skilled workers and their families to become residents of the Northwest Territories

- Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor announced the Yukon will be featured in the *Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2009*. It's a publication describing the world's hottest travel trends, destinations, journeys and experiences. Listing Canada as one of the top 10 countries for the year, it recognizes the Yukon River in two categories: World Rivers and Best Eco-trip. According to the Ministry “Kayaking the Yukon River” is identified as the second best eco-trip in the world

Alberta Notes

- Construction on the Highway 63 and Fort McKay intersection improvement project, 50 kilometres north of Fort McMurray was completed this month. The joint project between oil sands industry partners and government added dedicated turning bays to Highway 63 and the Fort McKay access road, and expanded the merge lanes, increasing intersection capacity. Traffic volumes at the intersection more than doubled in five years, increasing from 2,950 vehicles per day in 2002 to 6,620 vehicles per day in 2007. Improvements are intended to provide safer access to the Fort McKay community and local industry while improving safety for motorists using Highway 63. The Alberta government invested \$4.25 million while oil sands companies provided the remaining \$4.25 million for the project. Industry partners, lead by Canadian Natural Resources Limited, also included Albion Sands Energy, Shell Canada, Petro-Canada, PTI Group Inc., and Total E&P Canada

Saskatchewan Notes

- Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart and Crown Corporations Minister Ken Cheveldayoff in a news release this month, expressed their Government is pleased with Bruce Power's conclusion on the potential feasibility for nuclear power generation in Saskatchewan. Minister Stewart said, "Our government supports adding value to our raw uranium resources here in Saskatchewan to support the long term prosperity of our province and our people." The Province is undertaking a thorough evaluation of conditions Bruce Power indentified as necessary for a nuclear power plant to be feasible in Saskatchewan. Minister Stewart said they'll respond to both Bruce Power and Saskatchewan residents within six months
- Premier Brad Wall said this month the government will provide \$90 million to Crown Corporation, SaskTel toward a \$129 million investment in rural communication infrastructure. Over the next three years, the Province committed to providing high speed internet, province-wide as well as improvements to cellular coverage throughout
- It was reported by Tourism Parks, Culture and Sport the Saskatchewan Provincial Park system had its busiest park season on record with over three million visits in provincial parks in 2008; represents an 11 per cent increase over 2007. A summer 2008 camper satisfaction survey completed by nearly 4,000 campers rated the Province's parks highly in many respects, with an 86.9 per cent rate of overall satisfaction with their visits. Interested readers; find a survey summary available at: www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/Camper-Survey-2008
- The month of November saw a new element added to the expression, "In the Corridor"! This with the arrival from another solar system of what researchers believe to have been a 10 tonne fragment of an asteroid. Witnessed by thousands of corridor residents, the meteorite lit up the night sky. Thousands of meteorite fragments are said to be scattered in an area near the Battle River, southeast of the corridor community of Lloydminster and southwest of the communities of Battleford and North Battleford

Manitoba Notes

- This month Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation Minister, Ron Lemieux announced a \$45 million boost to their \$4 billion, ten-year Highway Renewal Plan. Citing it as an investment allowing Manitoba to take full advantage of its strategic location at the center of the country, Minister Lemieux released the 2009 tendering schedule at the same time. A move applauded by the heavy construction industry, it allows for better advance planning and bid preparation for next year's construction season

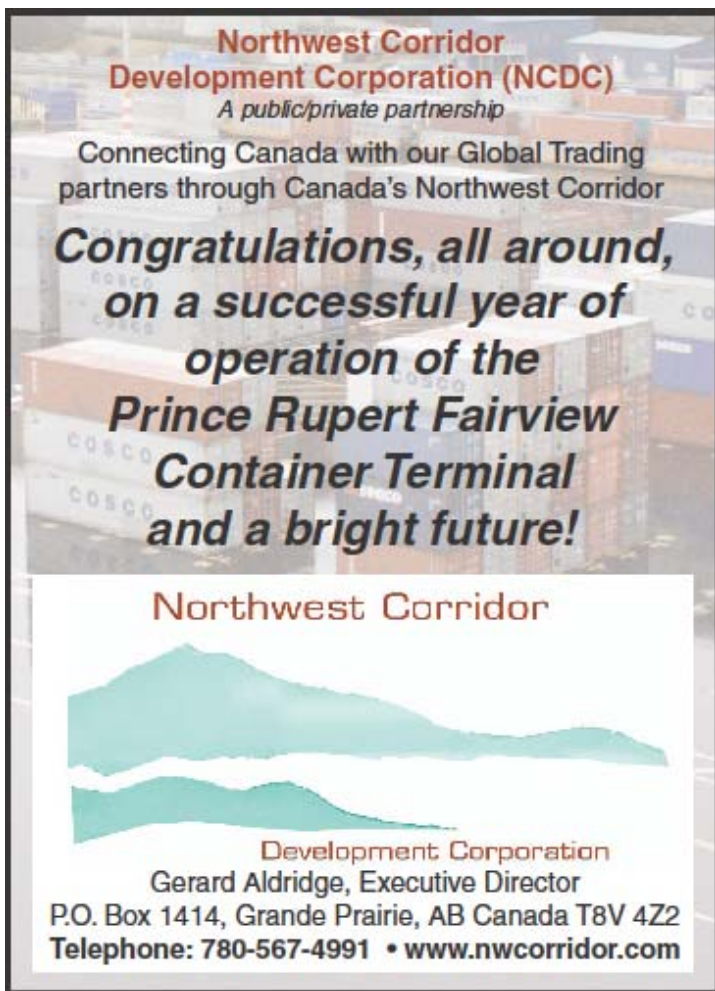
British Columbia Notes

- The Province's sale of oil and gas rights in November resulted in a total of over \$114 million in bonus bids, bringing fiscal year-to-date sales to over \$2.2 billion. Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld said, "As this record fiscal year continues, the oil and gas industry remains strong, and we're looking forward to the transition to the production stage." Offered were 57 parcels covering 39,094 hectares of which 45 parcels covering 24,565 hectares sold for an average price of \$4,679 per hectare
- Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range, lead a group of over a dozen forest sector delegates on a trade mission to China in November. Intended to increase demand for wood products, China's largest cities and major building markets were targeted including earthquake reconstruction project sites



Photo credit: Ministry of Forestry and Range

Children in local Qiang minority traditional dress greet Minister Bell



- The first anniversary of operation of the Prince Rupert Fairview Container terminal was one including a number of achievements. In a news release by the Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA), highlights of the first year noted were:
 - 69 container vessel calls
 - Vessels have arrived & departed on schedule
 - 147,787 TEUs handled, average of 2,142 TEUs per vessel
 - 30% of backhaul containers fully laden with exports
 - Yokohama, Japan to Chicago transit time: 12 days
 - Maximum container dwell time at the terminal: 48 hrs
 - Prince Rupert to Chicago average rail transit time: 94 hrs
 - 100% of containers scanned for radiation

Prince Rupert Port Authority President & CEO, Don Krusel, gave special recognition to those he called, "unsung heroes" in the year's successful operations. He included: the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU), Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), SMIT Marine and Quickload CEF. Along with the efforts of more visible partners; CN, Maher Terminals, the COSCO-CKYH Alliance and PRPA, the combined effort lead to the year's resounding global success

Industry Notes

- CBC News reported November 28th a Canadian Coast Guard official confirming a major first. A cargo vessel this fall traversed the Northwest Passage from the east, delivering cargo to western communities of Nunavut. Communities normally receiving supplies by tugboat and barge from the west may in future have an option for cost comparison of getting goods shipped from west or east. It has some heralding the event as a new era in Arctic shipping. The vessel owned by Desgagnés Transarctik Inc., transported cargo from Montreal in September. Although the Canadian Coast Guard was requested to have an ice breaker on standby, a Desgagnés Transarctik official on board for the shipment reportedly said, "They were ready to be there for us if we called them, but I didn't see one cube of ice"
- Western Canadian Coal Corp. announced the temporary suspension of mining operations and capital expenditures at its Willow Creek Mine as of month-end; this due to short term market uncertainties
- The *Kleysen Award of Excellence in Logistics* was officially announced in Winnipeg, Manitoba this month. Hubert Kleysen, former chairman and owner of Kleysen Transport, established the award's endowment. The award is presented to the outstanding graduating student of the Certificate in Logistics. The program is offered by the Transport Institute at the University of Manitoba
- CN President and Chief Executive Officer, E. Hunter Harrison said, "CN will have to carefully review its future investments in grain-related equipment and infrastructure". This in a news release in response to a Federal Court of Appeal Canada ruling this month upholding a CTA decision of earlier this year which saw grain transportation rates cut by eight per cent, retroactive to August 1, 2007, under railway revenue caps

- November saw Aboriginal representatives from the Northwest Corridor in talks with senior political and business leaders in China as part of a trade mission organized by the Native Investment Trade Association. It included delegations from British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as Quebec, Labrador and Nova Scotia. Mission attendants outlined unique competitive advantages of the Pacific Gateway, Port of Prince Rupert and of the corridor and its abundant natural resources. In a news release by the BC delegation to the trade mission, *Chief Councillor John Helin of the Lax Kw'alaams Band, and officials of Coast Tsimshian Resources Ltd, the band's wholly owned company, stated:* "Our core business is forestry and fisheries. We have been meeting with potential clients and promoted the cost, quality, branding and marketing advantages of doing business in the northwest. We have access to the resources China needs and we want them to know that our communities are open for business." Last year, Coast Tsimshian Resources shipped more than \$19 million in wood products to China and its fish plant can produce more than 10 million pounds of product annually for the world markets. Commenting on the discussions, *Elmer Derrick, Hereditary Chief of the Gitksan Nation, chief negotiator of the Gitksan Treaty Office, and board member of Ridley Terminals Inc, a federal crown corporation located in Prince Rupert, said:* "We talked about the benefits of the region and our strong desire to build long term economic partnerships with the Chinese to develop our regional economy. And we stressed the value of dealing directly with aboriginal representatives to facilitate transactions within our communities and the region as a whole. The Gitksan First Nation is eager to play a constructive role in fostering and accelerating the renewal of the resource economy in the region. We have access to an untapped fibre and mineral supply that requires substantial investment. Our people are ready and willing to work with regional stakeholders to seize on our natural attributes to revitalize our economy and develop compelling business opportunities for investors." *Jerry Lawson Councillor of the Lax Kw'alaams Band, stated,* "The meetings provided us a great opportunity to network with the Chinese, and also the Canadian

companies who are here as part of the Canada-China Business Council. We have learned a great deal about the opportunities that exist for our communities as we seek to expand our business and broader economic interests." *Daniel Veniez, Chairman of Ridley Terminals stated:* "The Governments of Canada and British Columbia have invested heavily in building infrastructure to accommodate and breathe life into the Pacific Gateway Initiative. The Port of Prince Rupert and Ridley Terminals are strategic assets to Canada that deepen our national trade flow capacity. The northwest transportation corridor offers unrivalled access to one of the most important markets in the world. All of us in BC's northwest – aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike - have a powerful interest in aligning our efforts to work together to create new business opportunities for the entire region. We are happy to support the effort to develop and strengthen the productive capacity of resource based communities in Western Canada and along the northern corridor"



Photo provided by: NATIONAL Public Relations
 Pictured from left to right: *Dan Veniez, Chairman of Ridley Terminals John Helin, Chief Councillor of the Lax Kw'alaams Band Chen Haosu, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Jerry Lawson, Councillor of the Lax Kw'alaams Band*

- Ridley Terminals Inc. (RTI) sadly paid tribute to Douglas Knowles, QC. RTI Chairman, Daniel Veniez attributed much positive RTI transformational work to Knowles, who was appointed to the RTI Board in April this year and subsequently served as their corporate secretary until his sudden passing this month



View all our generous 2008 conference sponsors, including the MD of Northern Lights, as well as a number of presentations made at this NCDC event by visiting www.nwcorridor.com

- A world of thanks goes out to the Municipal District of Northern Lights www.mdnorth22.ab.ca for their generous sponsorship of our last month's Conference and Annual General Meeting. They provided their sponsorship after the fact, despite knowing they'd not be accorded any well deserved recognition before and during the event. Their generosity doesn't end there, as you will find when reading on
- Many thanks to all the following organizations for renewing their NCDC membership for 2008/2009 this month:
 - County of Grande Prairie
 - Hillsborough Resources
 - Mackenzie County
 - Transport Canada
 - Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd.
- Fresh off the October Annual General Meeting and related Board appointments made thereat, November's municipal elections in British Columbia leave NCDC needing to appoint several to the Board once again. This with the departure of long serving Directors, Marylin Davies and Jim Eglinski as well as NCDC Chair, Don Zurowski. This is just one of a number of items for discussion at the next Board of Directors meeting, December 5, 2008

NCDC Director, Laurie Brown, Manager of the Northwest Regional Airport, Kitimat-Terrace, put it very well this past month when relating to me his thinking of the Northwest Corridor as a, "Community Corridor". I believe it particularly appropriate when relating to you, as readers, examples of cooperation and generosity between our NCDC member organizations in building (or in some cases, rebuilding community). I'll preface this one by telling you of our longstanding member, the Town of Grimshaw in Alberta's North Peace. It's a thriving community in itself of over 2,500, located at Mile Zero of the MacKenzie Highway. Not unlike many communities, Grimshaw has needed to deal with adversity. In June of 2003, winds of over 150 km/hr wrought heavy damage through town, including to its beloved Memorial Arena. Despite a portion of it being caved in, the community rebuilt; this only to have the arena completely destroyed by fire this September. Enter here, another longstanding NCDC member, the Municipal District of Northern Lights. In close proximity to the Town of Grimshaw, it's even closer as far as *Community* and our *Corridor* are concerned. NCDC members and readers on the world-wide web should know how the Municipal District of Northern Lights will be generously donating \$100,000 in 2008, and again in 2009, to the Town of Grimshaw's fund for building a new arena. Our Corridor is really just the sum of all its parts, being, "*Our Ports, our People, and, our Places*"; all equaling, in a word, Community with a capital C! That's our Northwest Corridor! Send stories like this to: aldridge@nwcorridor.com for our next issue

