

PCT: Who Are We & What Do We Do?

You see the big yellow piles as you drive by but probably rarely think about the people who work at PCT every day. There are many professional teams at PCT who work closely together transferring sulphur from trains to ships. This issue of Channels takes a closer look at the employees who help sulphur along the final leg of its journey to countries around the world.

PCT Times It Right

Everything at PCT starts with planning. Management coordinates with the railways and ships at sea in order to staff the terminal with the right combination of employees. PCT must know exactly when sulphur-filled trains from Alberta will arrive at the terminal. But knowing when the sulphur is due to arrive is just as important as scheduling its departure. Management communicates with vessels at sea and makes arrangements for them to berth at PCT.

Through careful planning, PCT ensures they are ready to move thousands of



Employees at PCT Transfer Sulphur From the Rails to the High Seas.



The Conveyor System Moves Sulphur From the Rotary Dumper to the Shiploader

tonnes of sulphur each day. On days when PCT unloads trains and fills ships, there are numerous employees on site. These include management and administrative staff, foremen, equipment operators, maintenance employees, and general labourers.

Arriving Via Rail

An average-sized train arriving at PCT has 115 open-top cars of sulphur. PCT employees greet every train after its journey across the Rocky Mountains. The railway divides the train into three sections and moves them onto their own section of track. They do this because PCT does not have enough track to keep the entire train in one

piece during unloading. Before the open-top cars start moving into the rotary dumper, PCT employees must personally inspect each car.

While cars are being inspected, an operator sits in a control booth high above the rotary dumper and prepares the entire handling system for unloading. The control booth has a series of cameras and computer screens which shows the position of each rail car. Operators are careful to ensure cars enter the rotary dumper properly and are turned over one-by-one. From the control booth, the operator can oversee the entire terminal operation and watch

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the sulphur's journey from the train, onto the conveyor system, and finally into a waiting ship.

Getting on Board

Vessels coming into PCT can load up to 70,000 tonnes and be up to 241 meters long. The morning a ship is to be filled with sulphur, the onboard Captain or First Mate submits a loading plan to the foreman at PCT. Each ship has a number of "hatches" or "holds" in which the sulphur will be stored. The loading plan tells PCT exactly how much sulphur is to be loaded and in what order empty holds are to be filled. These plans ensure the ship maintains a level keel during loading. After receiving the loading plan, the foreman conducts a safety and security check to prepare the vessel and terminal. The foreman then gives the loading plan to a shiploader operator.

When everything is ready, sulphur flows from the conveyor system up and through the shiploader, into the vessel's hold. The operator sits at the end of the shiploader boom which extends up to 122 metres over the ship. The foreman and shiploader operator work together to manage the flow of sulphur according to the loading plan.

While the ship is being loaded, a team of maintenance employees, including foremen, electricians, millwrights and other technical personnel, ensures the equipment is operating properly and are available to meet onsite needs. While sulphur is moving, other employees make sure the terminal stays spotless and shipshape, keeping PCT ready for its next shipment.

PCT School Tours: A Teacher's Perspective

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to take 28 grade five students on a field trip? Ask Anne Mancell, a teacher at Davie Jones Elementary School. Ms. Mancell describes her students as energetic, challenging, and all together well-behaved. She is always on the lookout for activities that fit her curriculum and tight budget. Ms. Mancell read about PCT's school tours in Channels and ordered her free curriculum guide. She booked a tour for her class and rented a bus for the morning.

The curriculum guide arrived on her doorstep with a variety of sulphur-related lesson plans connected with BC's curriculum. The class used several periods to work through the lessons to prepare for their tour of PCT. They were interested in the activities and Ms. Mancell was able tie other subject areas, like geography, into their lessons.

The class boarded a big yellow school bus on the morning of their tour. When they arrived at the terminal, the students met Gordon Sims, Assistant Manager of Operations and their PCT guide for the day. During the tour, Gordon described how sulphur is used. He told students that PCT is the largest sulphur export terminal in the world and that ships leave PCT's berth in Port Moody to take their cargos across the sea to far-away countries.

If you ask Ms. Mancell if she would take her students to PCT again, she would



Students on a School Tour Take a Close Look at the Shiploader

say "Yes, it was a good learning resource right in our own backyard". Like many other classes, the grade five students at Davie Jones Elementary School left PCT that day with a clearer understanding of sulphur and the important role it plays in Port Moody.

To order a free copy of the PCT curriculum guide or book a tour, please visit www.pct.ca.



With the Olympics less than one year away, Mayor Trasolini shares his view on how the Games will affect the city of Port Moody.

Q: What new recreational facilities have been developed in Port Moody recently?

Port Moody has a new recreation complex which showcases an Olympic-size ice rink, a new curling centre, indoor gymnasiums, fitness centres and more. The new complex has been designed to host local, regional, and international caliber athletes for sporting events and ceremonies of all kinds.

Q: Will the Port Moody recreational centre be used as a training facility for the Olympics?

We are currently in negotiations with the VANOC to make the City of Port Moody an official community partner for the Olympics. Being a community partner means our facilities would become available to athletes and their families. International athletes and teams could come to Port Moody to practice on the Olympic-size ice rink, the PCT Curling Centre, gymnasiums, fitness centres, and even host other events associated with the Games. We hope to announce

the results of these negotiations in the beginning of April 2009.

Q: How do you think the Olympics will impact tourism in Port Moody?

We hope that tourists coming to see the Olympics will also take the time to sample other parts of the Lower Mainland. Port Moody's proximity to the downtown core positions us very well for these visitors, and once they experience the unique beauty and culture of our city, they will want to come back again in the future.

Q: What does Port Moody have to offer as a tourist destination?

Port Moody is a city that truly has it all. The city is located against a backdrop of greenery and mountains. We offer visitors oceans, lakes, and outdoor activities for all ages. We also have Suter Brook, a quaint and trendy urban centre right on the water, shops and restaurants at Newport Village, and unique businesses and neighbourhoods at Moody Centre. Known as the "City of

Did you know



Spring is in the air

It's time for budding flowers and blooming trees. You may notice yellow dust settling on your windshields or windowpanes. Rest assured that this yellow dust is pollen, not sulphur.

the Arts", Port Moody has a rich history and culture to share with visitors in galleries and studios across the city.

Q: What is your favourite winter Olympic sport?

Without a doubt, it has to be hockey. I love watching hockey and hope to see some outstanding competition from our athletes during the Olympics in 2010.

Share Your Thoughts and You Could Win Dinner On Us!



We're looking for feedback on Channels!

Log on to www.pct.ca and complete a six question survey to be automatically entered to win a dinner for two at the Saint St. Grill in Port Moody. All questionnaires must be submitted by April 30, 2009.

The Port's City Scene

Just Desserts Gala, April 2, 2009

SHARE Family & Community Services provides leadership and programs in response to the social needs of families and communities in the Tri-Cities area. PCT is happy to become this year's Crème Brulee sponsor at SHARE's Just Desserts Gala which will be held at Westwood Plateau Golf & Country Club at 7:30pm on April 2nd. For tickets or more information, please call 604.540.9161 or visit SHARE at www.sharesociety.ca.

Fingerling Festival, May 2, 2009

PCT is proud to once again support the Port Moody Ecological Society as they host the Fingerling Festival on May 2nd. The Olympic Mascots will join families this year as they help send young chum salmon on their journey to the ocean from 11am to 3pm at the Noons Creek Hatchery and the new Port Moody skating arena. For more information, please visit www.noonscreek.org.

Wearable Art Awards, May 9 & 10, 2009

Presented by the Port Moody Arts Centre Society, the Wearable Art Awards encourage local, Canadian, and international artists to submit



Children Help Release Over 35,000 Salmon Fry at the Fingerling Festival.

imaginative creations for the human body. If you are interested to view this year's submissions, attend one of two performances on May 9th or 10th at the City Hall Galleria. To get more information, please visit www.wearableartawards.com.

Port Moody Secondary School Dry Grad Celebration, May 23, 2009

Congratulations to the graduates of 2009! PCT is happy to support Port Moody Secondary School's Dry Graduation Celebration and wishes graduates a memorable evening.

PCT Summer Sunday's Concerts, July & August, 2009

Soak in some jazz, rhythm and blues at this free concert series in Rocky Point Park.

PCT is proud to sponsor this summer series for the third year in a row. With a new permanent stage cover, it will be even easier to enjoy Port Moody's talented musicians every Sunday, starting at 2pm.

Golden Spike Days, July 3 – 5, 2009

Join PCT as we celebrate the Canada Day long weekend at Golden Spike Days. You are sure to find great food, entertainment, and a fun atmosphere at this year's celebrations. PCT is happy to sponsor the Ecological Boat Tours at Golden Spike Days. For more information please visit www.goldenspikedays.bc.ca.

Angela Bright's Submission Entitled "Let Them Drink Tea" Won an Award at the 2007 Wearable Art Awards.

Contact Information

Channels is published by **Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd.**

2300 Columbia Street, Port Moody, BC V3H 5J9 • Tel: 604.939.7371

Your comments and contributions are welcome. Please forward them to: Ken Catton, vice-president and general manager or email: pctinfo@pct.ca

www.pct.ca

