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Stepping Out From Sulphur's Shadow: Up Close and Personal with Ethylene Glycol

Ethylene glycol gets no respect. When visiting Pacific Coast Terminals (PCT), most people focus all their attention on the sunny, yellow mountains of sulphur. Yet, ethylene glycol is an important base for the chemical and plastics industries and an essential component of PCT's terminal.

Ethylene glycol, which is extracted from the natural gas fields in Alberta, travels to PCT by train before it is loaded onto ships that are bound for the Pacific Rim. Each year the terminal receives around one million tonnes of the versatile product.

A clear, odourless, and biodegradable

liquid, ethylene glycol is used in a variety of everyday products, such as polyester and antifreeze. In fact, the increasing worldwide demand for ethylene glycol, and the products it produces, persuaded PCT to expand its handling capabilities by building two new storage tanks to house the liquid in 2000.

PCT currently has six onsite storage tanks to store the ethylene glycol once it arrives at the terminal. Altogether, the tanks can hold up to 53,000 metric tonnes. As ethylene glycol can be contaminated by impurities, the sealed tanks are padded with nitrogen in order to keep moist air out. To prevent any

spillage, the tanks are surrounded by containment walls that can hold more volume than one of the tanks inside.

Ethylene glycol, because it is transported in liquid form, is usually shipped in a mid-size tanker that can hold up to 40,000 metric tonnes. PCT is able to load 800 tonnes of ethylene glycol into a ship per hour. In other words, it takes 24 hours to load a ship with around 19,000 tonnes.

From PCT, ethylene glycol voyages to production facilities in countries such as Japan and Taiwan, where it is used to manufacture resins for plastic and clothing fibres.

From Gaffe to Greatness: The Early History of Vancouver's Port Industry



This photo, taken around 1924, shows The IOCO Refinery with the first Imperial Vancouver tied to the dock. *Photo courtesy of the Port Moody Station Museum*

As a coastal city, Vancouver's port industry has had a long history. Today, the Port of Vancouver is an important component of both the local and national economy, contributing approximately \$30 billion annually in exports. The Port of Vancouver also handles more cargo and has more container throughput than any other port in Canada, and accounts for more than 62,000 Canadian jobs. Presented with these remarkable statistics, it's easy to forget that it all started with just one ship.

Vancouver's port history began when Captain George Vancouver and a team of 15 crew members explored the Burrard Inlet in 1792. At first, Vancouver thought the Inlet would take him across to the Atlantic, but when he realized it was an inlet, he reflected that the naturally deep waters would make an ideal port location.

Vancouver's vision materialized in 1864, when the *Ellen Lewis* became the first export ship to leave the Port of Vancouver. Its destination was Australia, and the vessel carried lumber and pickets, which took two months to load. In 1887, twenty years after

Confederation, the first train came to Vancouver on tracks built along the waterfront, making it easy for cargo to be transported to and from the docked ships. As one of the 25 marine terminals that now make up the Port of Vancouver, Pacific Coast Terminals (PCT) has also had a role in Vancouver's port history. PCT originally began in New Westminster, the capital of BC prior to Victoria being so named in 1869, and the Lower Mainland's key transportation hub. PCT opened its doors in 1929, shortly before the Great Depression hit. The terminal handled a variety of products, including mining concentrates, fertilizer, refrigerated food and lumber, before it closed its doors in order to make way for the Westminster Quay in 1982. PCT opened its bulk commodity terminal in Port Moody in 1960, to

handle coal and sulphur, as well as several other bulk products. Today, sulphur and ethylene glycol are the main products exported through the terminal.

The Port of Vancouver has continued to evolve since the Burrard Inlet was first discovered. It now encompasses 247 km of coastline that includes Point Roberts, the Burrard Inlet, Port Moody and Indian Arm. In 2005, the Port handled 76.5 million tonnes, a number that's expected to continue to increase as Asia's demand for Canadian exports grows.



An aerial shot of PCT, one of the 25 marine terminals that make up the Port of Vancouver.

Did you know

Ethylene Glycol at the Beach

Who can resist the beach when the weather is delightfully warm and sunny? When you're packing your beach bag, be sure to remember your ethylene glycol. This important base chemical has found its way into many summertime products. Here are five examples of just some of the warm weather essentials in which ethylene glycol is found:

Five beach essentials that contain ethylene glycol:

1. It's used to produce the bottle that contains your cool drink
2. It's in the plastic of the cooler in which you pack your delicious snacks and thirst quenching sodas
3. It's in the polyester of your favourite tank top
4. It makes up the antifreeze in the car that drives you to the beach
5. It produces the fleece in the sweater you put on after the sun sets





Zhan Hong is a recent Port Moody Secondary School graduate. He received one of the three PCT scholarships awarded to Port Moody graduates this year. Zhan Hong's scholarship was for the Environment and Engineering Award.

1. What was your favourite thing about high school?

My favourite thing was definitely the friendships I made. My closest friends were those whom I first met in high school, and we will always remember the times we shared.

2. What are your main interests and hobbies?

My main focus has been on computer software and hardware, and it has been a hobby I've actively pursued for roughly seven years. Whenever a friend needs a computer system built or a problem solved, they will surely turn to me. As some of my friends have many questions to ask, this usually results in hourly phone calls! I also enjoy reading, hiking and exploring forests or trails, and enjoying the peace (especially after said hourly phone calls).

3. What is your dream career?

My dream career would be to work in a

large technology company such as ATI or Intel designing next-gen hardware. Once I gain enough experience, I plan on pursuing aerospace engineering and working for NASA, or working for an agency in the computer crimes department.

4. How do you intend to use your PCT scholarship to further your education?

The scholarship will be used to assist with my studies in Computer Engineering, and also to ease the situation for my parents, as I'm sure it is not easy to fund twins going to University together! (I have a twin brother, Zhan Jun Liao).

5. What would be your advice to next year's grads?

Do not abandon work for play, and play for work. A balance between the two is essential. That being said, it's probably still wise to give up video games during exams and watching too much TV the night before a test.

Congratulations 2007 Scholarship Winners

In the last issue of Channels, PCT announced the three deserving winners of PCT's \$1000 scholarship for Port Moody high school graduates: Chase McKenzie, Megan Lynch, and Zhan Hong Liao.

Here is a little more about each winner:

Chase McKenzie, winner of the Fine Arts Award, has a passion for music, and will be attending Selkirk College in the fall, as part of its prestigious cotemporary music and technology program.

Megan Lynch, winner of the Business and General Studies Award, has a wide variety of interests, which include team sports, visual arts, acting and volunteer work. Megan hopes to pursue a career in physiotherapy or rehabilitative medicine.

Zhan Hong Liao, winner of the Environment and Engineering Award, is proficient in computer programming and enjoys playing recreational sports, such as badminton.



Think you could be a scholarship winner in 2008?

PCT is looking for graduating students from both Port Moody Secondary School and Heritage Woods Secondary School who are passionate about continuing their education.

If you're graduating in 2008, tell us about yourself, your involvement in the

community, and why you deserve to win this award.

For more information on applying for one of PCT's three \$1000 scholarships, contact your high school guidance counsellor, or download our brochure from www.pct.ca.

The Port's City Scene



Fanny Starchild entertains adults and children alike at PCT's Open House.



A visitor to PCT's Open House takes part in one of the many family activities offered, face painting.

PCT Hosts Successful Open House

On June 30th, PCT welcomed the entire community to visit and explore the terminal at its open house. The warm summer day was filled with activities and entertainment, such as complimentary harbour tours, clowns, magicians, face painters, and live bands. The day's many visitors were also treated to refreshments as they learnt more about PCT's operations.

"We were delighted to open our doors and invite Port Moody residents to explore the terminal and learn more about PCT," said Ken Catton, vice-president and general manager at PCT. "It was great to be able to spend the day with members of the community and enhance their understanding of our operations."



Back to School With PCT

As the summer sun sets and children head back to the classroom, PCT gets ready for another year of school tours. Whether the subject is resources or the economy, a classroom visit to PCT can provide students with a thriving, local example of the issues and concepts studied in the classroom.

Designed by an education specialist, the School Program is suitable for grades K–12, for various subjects, and is comprised of curriculum materials and a site tour.

For more information on our School Program please call us at 604-939-7371 or visit our website at www.pct.ca.

An Evening of Caring At EagleRidge Hospital

PCT is pleased to contribute to Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation's "An Evening of Caring" for the sixth year. On September 22nd, Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation will host the gala fundraising event, which raises funds for new hospital equipment, such as operating tables and an ultrasonic scanning system. For more information, contact: Shawn Leclair, 604-469-3137, or shawn@erhf.ca.

Links to Literacy

On August 27th, the Port Moody Public Library hosted their seventh annual "Links to Literacy" golf tournament and fundraiser at Meadow

Gardens Golf Club. Participants enjoyed a great day of golf and supported a good cause. PCT was proud to once again be the main sponsor for this initiative.

Summer Sundays

PCT was delighted to be the lead sponsor of the Pacific Coast Terminals Summer Sundays. During this concert series, which kicked off on July 8th, Port Moody residents were able to



The Cal Batchelor Band plays to an appreciative crowd at the opening concert of the Pacific Coast Terminals Summer Sundays concert series.

enjoy free concerts at Rocky Point Park each Sunday until the end of August.

Contact Information

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Your comments and contributions are welcome. Please forward them to:
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