

PACIFIC COAST TERMINALS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HOW WE'VE EVOLVED... Part 1 – The Early Years

The 1920's was a successful and prosperous decade for most of Canada. The economy and housing starts were on the rise, entrepreneurs were flourishing, and three businessmen began building their dream of establishing a shipping terminal to run the length of the New Westminster waterfront. A company they would come to name Pacific Coast Terminals. Spirits were high, planning was going well and on September 1st, 1929 PCT opened its doors amongst fanfare, high expectations, and even plans to expand south to Tacoma. Then, on October 24th, 1929 disaster came in the form of Black Thursday. The first day of the single worst ever stock market crash in US history, which ultimately kicked off the Great Depression. And so began what would become 90 years of change and evolution for a little company with big dreams.

In the years immediately following Black Thursday, PCT struggled as most businesses did in Canada. The company never really had time to firmly get off the ground before they were faced with the immense challenges of a faltering economy. Though the directors remained optimistic, the impact the Great Depression had on the business sector was far reaching. The facility's plans to capitalize on the prosperity of the early 1920's never came to fruition, and by 1931 the company was in serious financial trouble. Ongoing refinancing efforts were made, business was promised but never materialized, parts of the company were sold but financing was still hard to come by, and on February 25th, 1935 PCT's assets were auctioned off on the steps of the Vancouver Courthouse after the company had no choice but to declare bankruptcy.

It was suggested that Consolidated Mining & Smelting (CM&S at the time, later to become Cominco) take an interest in PCT due to the fact that they were already using the port to move their commodities, so it wasn't surprising that it was CM&S who bought the majority of their assets. On December 12th, 1935 the New Westminster terminal was re-established as Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd, and PCT directors were now under strict new management. With the worst of the Great Depression behind them, it was time to rebuild. Through the Second World War, Canada was actually seeing economic prosperity. The toll on human life was beyond comprehension, but the economy was actually recovering. It was during this time that PCT began to prosper. The directors even began urging CM&S, as majority stakeholders, to consider expansion but the bid to grow was a tough sell. The industry was changing. Ships were growing in size raising concerns about whether there was room in the Fraser River. The north shore of Vancouver was also in the midst of developing terminals of their own, and already had the backing of some bulk commodity producers. Competition was growing, government factors played heavily on decisions, and pressures from producers for state of the art facilities was on the rise. In the end, the attractiveness of larger bulk commodities and the potential for large volumes if the site was right eventually persuaded CM&S to expand, and Port Moody was chosen due to its proximity to CPR's rail yard in Port Coquitlam. On November 5th, 1958 Pacific Coast Bulk Terminals Co. Ltd. (PCBT) was incorporated and construction of a new facility on the Burrard Inlet began. A new phase for PCT terminals was about to be ushered in.

Stay tuned for "Part 2 – Building and Growing PCT in Port Moody" coming up in our December newsletter!



AN AERIAL VIEW OF PCT'S NEW WESTMINSTER OPERATIONS IN 1948.



ASK AN EMPLOYEE



PCT recently welcomed two new additions to our Maintenance Department. Marie-Christine Tremblay and Elvin Yutuc have already become part of the PCT family, but in an effort to get to know them better we asked them for a few fun facts to share about themselves!

Marie-Christine Tremblay:

I moved to British Columbia in January 2015. Before that, I worked for Konecranes in Quebec City for 3 years. In early December 2014, I was seeking new challenges and I saw a job opening as a Maintenance Planner in BC for the same company. I applied for the position, had the interview, got the job, rented my apartment, sold all my belongings and moved to BC with my cat, all within the span of a month...and I have never looked back. I worked for 3 years at Konecranes in Delta as Maintenance Planner, and then for a year and a half with Skeans Engineering as a Service Coordinator. I started with PCT in mid-August, and though I am still pretty new in my role I already enjoy every minute of it. I am the kind of person that needs daily challenges and with PCT, I will certainly find my way. The work environment is great and none of my days ever look the same.

Fun facts about Marie:

1. I enjoy everything that involves being outdoors, but I do have preferences for kayaking, snowboarding, hiking, running and camping.
2. In my younger years, I hitchhiked across Canada and stayed in a tent so I could live the Quebec dream; picking cherries in the Okanagan. I also spent a winter in Lake Louise to snowboard, a summer in Tofino to become a beach bum, and a year in Nelson to release my inner hippie.

Elvin Yutuc:

I went to school at UBC in electrical engineering, biomedical option. From there I decided to harness my education by working for CWA, a consulting engineering material handling firm that had nothing related to biology. I worked there for 8 years and decided I wanted a change to work at an operating facility full time. I am excited to tackle the challenges on the waterfront, work with a great team here at PCT, and further my knowledge of the black magic practiced by sparkies, also known as electricity.

Fun Facts about Elvin:

1. I am a professional recreational sports "athlete".
2. I am a lifelong Lakers fan, and dislike Lebron James. I currently do not know how to feel.

3. I can play the guitar and the ukulele, juggle with pins, and ride a unicycle. No, not all at the same time.
4. Traveling is very important to me. In the last couple of years I have been to Cuba, Spain, Australia, New Orleans but also explored some less touristy places like the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland.
5. Tremblay is the "Smith" of Quebec. There is a brewery that has created a beer in our honour. It's really not the best beer in Quebec, but who else can say they have a beer named after them, eh?

3. I am a proud supporter of purple/red pants Wednesdays.
4. My favourite vacation spot is Hawaii, the sun, the sand, island time... and pineapples.
5. I also have a pen...Urg. Thanks Aaron.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE! **NOVEMBER 23, 2019**

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COME CHECK US OUT!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This regular section is dedicated to showcasing some of our partnerships and providing important information to the residents of Port Moody.

PAST EVENTS

CAR FREE DAY AUGUST 18, 2019



This event is certainly a Port Moody favorite, and what a wonderful day to help celebrate Car Free Day on St. John's street in Port Moody. The sun was shining and there were so many great people out to represent our community. We'll certainly be back next year!

LINKS TO FRIENDSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT AUGUST 26, 2019



Nothing like an excuse for the PCT gang to get together for golf on an August afternoon. The Senior's Friendship Society hosted their annual Links to Friendship Golf Tournament and thanks to all their hard work it was another huge success. PCT is a proud sponsor of this amazing event!

CONTACT

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

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