Fish Relocation at the Rainy River Project

As a component of environmental approvals for the Rainy River Project, New Gold has committed to safely relocating as many fish as practical from the small tributary streams within the project area that interact with the Project design.

These small streams support populations of minnows, dace, shiners, suckers and chub. During the relocation effort, fish were captured using various techniques and moved to areas upstream or downstream of the Project area, where they’ll live in suitable habitat comparable to that of the streams.

The initial stages of this fish relocation were completed between June and August 2015. Data are currently being compiled and analysed, but it is estimated that approximately 160,000 fish (about 500 kg) were captured and relocated!

Thank you to the local community members who helped make this program such a success!

Surface Miner Aboriginal Trainee Program

The Rainy River Project is pleased to have offered a pilot training program which was held in collaboration with several Aboriginal communities in the area. The program provided people with the amazing opportunity to get some hands on training on the new Sandvik DR850 production drills as well as the Komatsu 830E haul trucks.

New Gold was proud to be part of the collaborative funding model, which included suppliers, communities and New Gold.

It was a very exciting program and the enthusiastic participants learned valuable skills- in the field. The participants drilled over 50% of the holes for the first production blast in September, which was a major milestone for the project!
On August 4th, 2015 the first truck chassis and loads of rims were delivered to the assembly pad at the Rainy River Project site. Over the next couple of weeks the rest of the equipment and components arrived at the pad—over 120 semi-truck loads in total! Work was quickly underway to put these larger-than-life pieces of equipment together!

The stars of the brand new mining fleet are the Komatsu PC5500 shovels and the 830E-AC haul trucks.

The PC5500 shovels are built in Dusseldorf, Germany. They are then disassembled, crated and shipped across the ocean to the port at Thunder Bay. From Thunder Bay they are loaded onto trucks and brought to the Rainy River site. Each massive PC5500 shovel arrives on 21 individual transport loads, with many of the components requiring a single truck per piece. The first track is laid out on the ground and then the side frame is lowered onto it. Within two weeks it resembles a shovel. Hundreds of hydraulic hoses and electrical connections take another two weeks to complete. Filling the fluids, testing the machine and final setup comes next. In total, it takes 30 days to complete the build.

The Komatsu 830E-AC trucks are manufactured just south of us in Peoria, Illinois. Each 830E-AC truck requires 6 semi-truck loads to transport it to the Rainy River Project site. It takes an incredible 19 days to assemble each truck. At more than 22 feet high and 47 feet long, these big boys weigh-in at a whopping 850,650 pounds! The truck starts out as a bare frame with the engine and AC alternator installed from the factory. The upper deck structure, cab, electrical cabinets, wheel motors and steering assemblies are then mounted. Once the truck has been mechanically assembled, it is started and tested, fluids are topped up and then the tires are installed. Due to their size, the 240T capacity boxes have to be shipped in two pieces. It takes 10 days to weld them together and install the pivot frame and other brackets, etc. Once the box is mounted, the final setup of the computer, including the payload monitoring system can be completed.

With the size of the equipment requiring almost every piece to be lifted into place with a crane and many requiring two cranes to position the components with precision, it requires careful planning to ensure the safety of all on the team. The team of over 25 tradespeople includes heavy duty mechanics, crane operators, tire technicians and fire suppression installers. We’re certainly proud of our equipment and look forward to providing more updates.
I am excited to say that with October nearly over, we have kicked off pit development for the Rainy River Mine. I know many people have seen the big pieces of mining equipment rolling through town heading out to the site for assembly. The hard work of planning and execution is paying off for the operations team. We’re ready to start mining! Starting to mine means taking our first blast, and then removing the rock in layers, or ‘lifts,’ so that we can open up the mining area and uncover the ore as well as have the various types of non-ore materials available for removal. The non-ore materials are particularly important at this time as we will supply different types, like clay, to the construction team as they build infrastructure on the site.

The big mining equipment is pretty cool, but the key to operating it is a team of people. Throughout the past few months our New Gold team has been recruiting what we call our ‘first wave’ of surface miners and maintenance employees. The first smaller group started in October and the remainder of the first wave are coming on in January and February of 2016. The idea behind starting with a small team in October is to take the time to assure all of our processes, systems and equipment are the best they can be for when the large group of team members start in the New Year. This first group will receive additional training and be able to help coach and mentor the larger team. I should let you know we have been so impressed by the candidates we have seen. The response from all of our local communities has been fantastic and encourages the team that we are on the verge of recruiting an awesome group of people.

Meanwhile, across the site, the construction team is making progress every day. Seeing concrete go up for building foundations, new roads being built and the preparation for steel and buildings is really exciting.

Did I say “exciting” again?! It is all exciting and none of this work can happen without our focus on the core foundations of our business; safety, environment and our community. In August we recognized a milestone of 2.0 million man-hours without a lost time incident. Our commitment to the environment lives every day in how we plan and execute our work across the site, both construction and operations. From a community perspective, the entire team continues to strive to ensure that the new mine growing in our backyards a painless and transparent happening – while we may not be perfect every day, we continue to address any concerns and incorporate the great ideas everyone has in how we build and eventually operate our Rainy River Mine.

One of the things we talk about in New Gold is that safety, environment and community is not something just to focus on when you’re at work. The mark of a great culture in any organization is that people take their personal commitment to these key aspects of our business home with them. I talk about giving the ‘gift’ of safety to your family and friends. New Gold, like many top companies has fantastic safety programs, systems, training and culture – why not take that home and ensure your family and friends are benefitting from it? For example, make sure your family uses proper personal protective equipment when cutting the lawn, or make sure proper ladder safety is used when hanging the Christmas lights. Environmentally, look to reduce, reuse and recycle at every opportunity. From a community perspective, take time to volunteer, support a charity or simply take the time to say hello to a neighbor.

Being part of a team that is building a new mine is exciting and can be a little busy. I want to thank our team members of today and tomorrow, and all of the communities we are part of – your support is the key to our success.

Grant Goddard- General Manager
Safety Share- Hunting Season

Now that we’ve moved into Fall, hunting season is here. There are a number of important tips that can help ensure the safety of both hunters and other people working in and/or enjoying these areas:

**BE VERY VISIBLE** – Wear plenty of bright orange, visible from all angles, during hunting season. Wear fluorescent clothing, including a hat, vest or jacket. If you are working in a known or potential hunting area, put up signs warning hunters that there are people working in the area.

**MAKE YOURSELF HEARD** – Be sure hunters can hear you well before they see you. While many of us enjoy running or hiking on a quiet trail, hunting season is not the time to practice your stealth moves. If you hear hunting taking place near you, make yourself known to the hunters.

**STICK TO THE APPROVED HUNTING AREAS** – Hunters need to be aware of the boundaries that they are permitted to hunt within and ensure they do not stray into areas where work and/or leisure activities might be occurring. Obey all signage that indicates hunting is not permitted in areas.

The Rainy River Project will be installing permanent and temporary signage along the property boundary to alert hunters to potential workers in the area.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Do you have questions or comments about the Rainy River Project? Please contact us at:

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