# NEWSIG Rainy River

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcoming Ray Threlkeld

The District Buzz

Rainy River Spirit House

Tire Improvements

**Feathered Friends** 

Who's Working at Rainy River

# WELCOME RAY THRELKELD



Ray Threlkeld, President and CEO

In May 2018, Raymond Threlkeld was appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer of New Gold Inc. Ray is a familiar face in the Rainy River District, as he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Rainy River Resources Ltd. until New Gold acquired it in 2013. Many of you will know him from the numerous public engagements he has participated in throughout the District, from public meetings to participation in local mining forums.

Ray brings extensive operating and executive leadership experience to the team and specifically he has great familiarity with Rainy River. He has been a member of the New Gold Board since 2009 and was the Company's Interim Chief Operating Officer from December 2016 to September 2017.

While Ray's responsibilities will take him throughout North America, we can be sure that he will be spending time at Rainy River to check out our operations and to have a look at the rocks, as he will always be a geologist at heart!



## HERE'S THE BUZZ

ew Gold is excited to be working with neighbor, Rick Neilson of Seven Bends Honey Farm as well as Ty Stafford and Alex Pollard to establish a new local bee yard in the District!

These keen beekeepers, along with Rick's expertise and training, will establish a new bee apiary and learn more about hive management. We look forward to hearing about how their project is going in the coming months!



Alex Pollard, Rick Neilson, Ty Stafford



#### **FEATHERED FRIENDS**

This spring, the New Gold Rainy River Environment Department was busy installing stakes with reflective tape to deter birds from landing and nesting on certain areas at the mine site. This important program is one of the methods that the team uses to discourage ground nesting birds from making homes in active areas of the mine. The stakes help to ensure that birds are choosing areas outside of the mine site to nest, providing a safe location for the birds, as well as allowing work to continue at the site.



Steve Jack, Environmental Monitor



The stakes are constructed with a wooden picket that has a ribbon of reflective tape on the top which blows in the wind and shines brightly in the sun. They're placed at approximately 10 meter intervals. This method of deterring birds from nesting has been approved by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

This is the second year that the program has been employed at the Rainy River site. This year, approximately 7,000-10,000 stakes were placed over a two week period, covering an area of approximately 250 hectares.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The current pit depth from surface is approximately 100 meters! The current pit diameter at surface – approximately 800 meters by 1200 meters.



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#### TIRE IMPROVEMENTS DRIVE SUCCESS

aul truck tires cost an incredible \$43,000.00 each! With each of the 16 Komatsu 830E haul trucks requiring 6 tires, that's a huge operating cost at the Rainy River mine.

Numerous factors can influence wear on tires including; haul distance, water in the pit and on roadways, sharp or frozen material on roads, corner radius, road grade, tire maintenance, payload distribution and operator awareness.

While still maintaining safety and environmental requirements, there are a number of methods to extend tire life, starting with haul truck operators. The operators need to be vigilant in avoiding rocks and other obstructions. Shovel operators can also help by properly distributing loads in the trucks' dump beds and not overloading the trucks. At Rainy River, spotting aids have been installed on the shovels to assist with load distribution and efficiency. In 2018, a weigh study was conducted to verify actual payloads carried by haul trucks and determine load weights being put on the tires.

Dozer and grader operators perform cleanup operations and help to maintain smooth roads and driving surfaces. The mine planning and engineering team make decisions each day about the design of all aspects of the mine that can have an effect on tire life (i.e. haul roads, ramps, curves, road construction materials and drainage).

The mine maintenance team monitors vehicle alignment and suspension while the on-site tire service provider closely monitors haul truck tires for under-inflation and wear. The service provider also conducts regular inspections for any signs of damage.

Operator training, testing and the implementation of specialized equipment such as Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems as well as equipment that measures lateral and vertical forces on the tires help the team gain more knowledge about what's happening inside the tires at all times and the role that site factors play on tire life.



Jody Shypit, Surface Miner

At Rainy River, we can see our efforts paying off. The teams have been able to show a great deal of improvement in tire life comparing the first half of 2017 with the first half of 2018.

Jan 1, 2017 - July 1, 2017 average life span of a tire was 1744 hours.

Jan 1, 2018 – June 26, 2018 average life span of a tire is 3544 hours.

Continuous site improvements and operator experience are major factors in this success. As the operators become more experienced on the trucks, they are able to pass their knowledge on to each other.

As you can see, tire care is a team effort!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 130,000 tonnes of material is moved in a 24-hour day

We blast approximately 3 million tonnes of rock per month!

Approximately 590 truck loads of ore are moved in a 24 hour day!

## THE RAINY RIVER SPIRIT HOUSE

The Spirit House is a tiny teepee shaped structure that overlooks the open pit at the Rainy River mine. The Spirit House symbolically provides a place where the spirits on the site can come together. Team members and guided visitors to the Rainy River site can give a customary offering of tobacco at the Spirit House to express gratitude for gifts provided by the earth. To officially bless the Spirit House and the site, Brian Smith (New Gold First Nations Community Coordinator with Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services), with the assistance of other team members conducted a ceremony on May 11, 2018.



Angela Yen, Tammy Grinsell, Brian Smith, Denise Lord, Vivian Beehan



Mei-Yin MacDonell, HR Generalist & Cassandra Loveday, HR Aboriginal Trainee

# WHO'S WORKING AT RAINY RIVER

(as of June 30, 2018)

Total number of employees 642

Employees from the

Rainy River District 73%

Indigenous Employees 27%

Female Employees 15%

# DID YOU KNOW?

One Komatsu 830E haul truck has a carrying capacity of 220 tonnes



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### **Emo Community Office**

P.O. Box 5 5967 Highway 11/71 Emo, Ontario POW 1E0 1 (855) 482-0900✓ rrcomments@newgold.com



For information on upcoming job opportunities, please keep visiting our website at newgold.com/careers

