



Howe Sound

PULP AND PAPER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

NEWS & VIEWS • MARCH 2007

IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunshine Coast Community Orchestra Association

The Sunshine Coast Community Orchestra Association provides an opportunity for players of all ages and abilities to play in an orchestra or a concert band. There are introductory and intermediate orchestras, as well as a senior orchestra and the Tuesday Chamber players. The Concert Band is a large ensemble of wind players.

The next concert comprising all the groups is on June 16 at 7:30 pm in the Gibsons' Heritage Playhouse.

Did you know that you can hire a select group (or the entire orchestra!) to perform at your next function? Call Val Anderson at 604-885-6756 for more information.

Howe Sound Pulp and Paper recently gave a donation to the Sunshine Coast Community Orchestra Association that will help support its many activities.



The Sunshine Coast Community Orchestra performing Mozart.

QUICK FACT

Howe Sound Pulp and Paper is the Sunshine Coast's largest employer with just under 600 employees. The mill's annual payroll is close to \$50 million—a considerable economic benefit for Sunshine Coast businesses!

CONTACT US

Howe Sound's News & Views is published once a month in the *Coast Reporter*. Issues are also available on our website at www.hspp.ca.

Questions? Comments? We'd like to hear from you! You can call or email Tina Sebert, Community Relations Assistant. Tel: 604-884-2575 Email: hsppcomments@hspp.ca



The annual kraft mill maintenance shut

Once a year 500-700 people from all over western Canada transport themselves and their scaffolding, tool cribs, cranes, and other specialty gear to Port Mellon. In about a week, nearly \$10 million is spent inspecting, replacing, refurbishing, and testing the mill's systems and equipment.

This is the biggest shut on the kraft side of the mill, when a good portion of the year's maintenance is done in one concise, industrial-strength period of strenuous activity. This year's shut (February 26-March 7) was one of the most extensive Howe Sound has performed in eight years. Most of Howe Sound's trades people worked 12-hour days throughout the shut with the help of operations workers. In addition, over 700 contractors were on site and for a few days nearly every hotel room and B&B from Gibsons to Sechelt was booked.

Robin Woolmer, the kraft mill's senior supervisor for quality, was heavily involved in the shut. "When everything is in pieces you wonder if it will ever come together again. But it does," Robin observes.

Robin describes the mill shut as a real testament to the maintenance planners and supervisors. "They go in with a good plan but you have to adjust the plan as you find the work that needs to be done. And there are thousands of tiny, little details."

Harry Wilson is the kraft maintenance and engineering superintendent. "Our trades people and supervisors put in extra effort so we could complete the work on time and budget," Harry notes. "The annual shut is our time to shine and the guys did an excellent job in executing the work."

Senior buyer Brenda LaRiviere began ordering equipment in September—five months in advance—ensuring everything would be on site, ready for installation. For the most part everything went off as planned, with only one significant unanticipated repair.

"We used contractors who've worked here before," Brenda explains. "They know and appreciate that we have resource and budget constraints, and they know we have a small window of time to get things done in."

Study shows Howe Sound Pulp and Paper is an industry leader in lowering greenhouse gas emissions

According to a report just released by the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC), Howe Sound Pulp and Paper has the second lowest greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per product tonne of all Canadian kraft pulp mills.

Howe Sound has reduced total GHG emissions by more than 50% since 1990 (the Kyoto baseline year). Over that same time, we have lowered GHG emissions per tonne of product by almost

90%. This is the largest reduction in the Canadian pulp and paper industry, according to the FPAC.

In addition, Howe Sound Pulp and Paper:

- produces about 80% of its own energy;
- has reduced energy use per tonne of product by over 40% since 1990; and
- has reduced emissions of other air pollutants by 80 to 90% since 1990.

Local vessel attendants take on essential safety role

Before coming to Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, Loretta Albayate had never been on an industrial site. She discovered that just entering the job site required safety training.

As a former airline-industry sales and marketing manager with two university degrees, she'd never worn personal-protective equipment before, such as the hardhat, safety glasses, steel-toed boots, and high-viz vest required everyday on site. "But you get used to it," Loretta observes. "And you know that it's there for a reason."

Loretta was one of 55 Sunshine Coast residents hired by contractor IDL to perform safety-watch duties during the mill shut. Vessels such as the wood-chip digester, recovery boiler, and bleach plant tanks (which usually operate 24/7) are inspected and repaired during shuts.

Entering these vessels requires special safety procedures, including having a "vessel attendant" who is responsible for monitoring crew entering and exiting the vessel, maintaining radio contact, and knowing the locations of the nearest emergency resources—such as eye-wash stations, showers, fire extinguishers, phones, and emergency exits. Each of the 55 local vessel attendants received specialized training on how to perform these duties safely and accurately.

"The vessel attendants worked 12-hour shifts, outside, in the rain and wind," says Howe Sound supervisor Robin Woolmer. "They underwent physical hardships and continued to do a great job."

"I'm happy they hired locally and everybody I spoke with thought it was a great learning experience," Loretta concludes. "I'd definitely do it again."



Vessel attendant Loretta Albayate signs in a contract employee from IDL before he enters the O2 reactor.



We are a world leader in delivering outstanding quality pulp and paper products that make our customers successful. We excel in employee safety, productivity and environmental protection.