

## Letter From the President



I feel at a loss for the right words because this issue

comes at a time when we at Ram have gone through some difficult times. Early in the year we said good-bye to Derek Randall, who had worked in our office over the past several years only to have just made the decision to leave us

for a work opportunity closer to his home when he found out he had cancer. He lost the fight on January 13. That was hard because even though he decided he would soon be leaving Ram, we still felt we had lost a co-worker and more than that, a friend.

And more recently we had to come to terms with losing someone much too young to be saying good-bye to. Duane Venturini was only 22 when he

passed away on April 5th and it's been very hard, especially for the guys on the site to be able to continue working at full strength.

I'd like to express my deepest condolences to Derek and Duane's respective families once again and to say thank you to everyone at Ram for pulling through these difficult times.

Steve Knoblauch  
President, Ram Construction

### Ram Reflections From John Yirka

*A butterfly lights down  
So softly, so gently  
A bit of glory and colour  
Then, after a moment  
It catches a breeze and flies away  
But its beauty stays behind*



**Duane Allan Venturini**  
**Passed away April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

We all shared his life for the last number of years and today I wish to reflect on his life and what it meant, to you and me.

Duane was seventeen when he started with Ram. He and his friend Joey had completed their first year apprenticeship in Trail, B.C., before coming to the coast. I was sent to the Lomas site and saw these lost boys on the slab, not sure what they were doing, but working really hard at it. I told Del he had to show them the work and how to do it. What??

Del to tell you?? He handed that job to me. So began my relationship with Duane.

I worked with him and started his journey. He was so eager to please and learn. He respected me and called me sir. It took over a year before he told me to "\_\_\_ off". I was so proud of him that day. Time went by and when I was on Duane's site, he tried to work with me. The pump house at Deltaview where he cut his finger with a saw.

He would tell me about you. That's how news travels. We all do it. Time passed and we all worked with Duane. We'll miss his laugh, his "attitude", enthusiasm.

Then I needed more help on Mayne Island. When he got there he showed me his carpenter's ticket. I was proud again.

While at work one day he was beside me and whispered "I'd like to hang out with you." I didn't react. I know he hung out with some of you too. I thought about it for over two weeks and finally asked him to dinner. I slowly got to know him. He was

very private. Most of the times we would hang out was on side jobs. He wanted extra money. Don't we all?

We had dinner once or twice a month and he would tell me of his accomplishments. His hockey card collection was amazing. Kickboxing, already had a blue belt. He loved skateboarding, and showed me his "bag of tricks". He was proud to show me. Snowboarding was his love. Jumps and "360's" were every day. He could cook. We played chess as equals. I only once beat him at darts. I never golfed with Duane, I know some of you did. He loved music, and rekindled that fire in me. He asked about camping and if I would take him, and I did. Only a few times did we "hang out". I only was starting to get to know him.

I'm going to miss him dearly, as I know you will too. I only met his large circle of friends at his service. He was loved by more than you can imagine. We were lucky to have him with us.

Good bye Duane, you are my friend forever. Thank you, butterfly, for your gift to us.

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#### CONTACT:

Any comments, suggestions, stories, complaints, jokes or anything else on your mind? Please send an e-mail to [news@ramconst.com](mailto:news@ramconst.com).

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# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Duane was the first employee interviewed for the "Employee Profile", which is now a reoccurring feature in the Ram newsletter. This story was published in the Volume 1, Issue 2 newsletter in November 2005.

## Duane Venturini

Ask any kid, "What do you wanna be when you grow up?" and they'll say a rock star, a cowboy, a baseball player or maybe a superhero. But what would Duane Venturini have told you? Simple...a carpenter.

So on September 2, 2003, Duane began working at Ram Construction with the goal of becoming a carpenter. He was in Kelowna with a list of contractors looking to hire, when he contacted Ram, and within a week he had moved out here and began working.

Today, Duane is less than a year away from achieving his level four carpentry, which would make him a journeymen

carpenter. This month he will begin his level three carpentry which will finish in December and have him back at work for Ram in the New Year. Duane will then be what he likes to call "three quarters of a carpenter".



Being back at work, will also see Duane return to his position as the first-aid attendant in the field, with his level three first aid, and as a member of the Health and Safety Committee.

With all the competition in this industry for carpenters, what keeps Duane coming back to Ram?

"It's a good company, with a lot of good benefits and good guys to work with,"

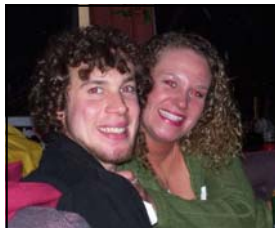
says Duane. "They take the time to teach you how to do everything properly."

Of those good guys to work with, Duane looks up to Rick Shatzko who gained his respect and got him over his fear of heights for his effortless walk across the 2 x 4's of the roof frame at Chatham, with 2 x 12's flung over his shoulder like they weighed nothing.

And although it appears that Duane eats, sleeps and breathes carpentry, he does take the time to collect coasters from every bar or pub he goes to. And just like the work he does on the job, they have to be in perfect form.



## Remembering Duane



# In Memory of Derek Randall

Derek worked at Ram Construction as the Chief Estimator for over seven years. In August he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Only five short months later, Derek succumbed to the cancer on January 13th, 2008. Many Ram employees, and also people from other companies who had worked with Derek, attended the memorial service. Derek will be remembered for the great work that he did while at Ram and for the wonderful memories he shared with everyone who had the pleasure of working with him.



Derek and wife Hazel in Harrison for Ram's Christmas party 2005



Grey Cup at BC Place November 2005

The following was written and read by Jeff Knoblauch for Derek Randall's memorial service held on January 23rd

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jeff Knoblauch. I was asked to speak on behalf of RAM Construction, the company that Derek worked for over the last seven years.

I am honoured to be up here to say a few words about the individual that I have learned so much from. Derek has helped me in my development as an estimator and has given me the tools and resources to bring me to where I am today.

Derek was a competitor, which is a much needed trait as an estimator. Once a week he would spend his lunch break at the local gym playing squash. You could always tell how he fared against his opponent that day, because days he came back bright red in the face and with a big frown, you knew it was best to stay away from him for the afternoon.

Derek took his job very seriously and had the company's best interest at heart. When there was a big tender

closing, the only way to get Derek off track was to ask him a question about soccer. To be honest I didn't understand half of what he was talking about, but it was great to see his passion.

When we first found out that Derek became ill, we received many well wishes from companies and individuals that Derek would work closely with on a daily basis. I would like to share some of those comments today.

A note from Homan Contracting...

"There are many people that we meet in life, both personally and professionally, that leave an impact on our lives. Derek, you are certainly a person that has left a positive impact with your professionalism, integrity and sunny personality."

A note from Westrade Electric....

"Derek, we have truly enjoyed working with you over the years. Your integrity, honesty and knowledge of the construction industry made our

relationship one of the best in Westrade's 23 years of business."

A note from Gary Sterling...

"Your friendship, honesty, kindness and above all sense of humor made the last several years working in construction almost fun. The construction industry would be a lot better if there were more Derek Randall's."

Hazel, I want you to know that your family is not alone in dealing with this loss. I can speak on behalf of our family at Ram and our network within the construction industry that we have all lost a very honourable and dedicated person. Derek will never be forgotten and will always be a part of us. It gives us strength remembering the many great times we spent at work, and all the discussions we had about life.

I want to thank you again for allowing me to spend this time today to say a few words about this great individual that we will all truly miss.

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## **Day & Ross**

**13150-115 Avenue, Surrey**

**Project Manager: Greg Lea/Superintendent: Tim Payne**

This project is complete with the exception of the south-west corner where the owner is planning a new site entrance. The owner moved in February 15 and the terminal is now in full - 7 days a week - operation.

## **Maple Leaf Foods**

**68 Brigantine Drive, Coquitlam**

**Project Manager: Jeff Knoblauch/Superintendent: Dan Norris**

Work related to the renovation and expansion of the existing Maple Leaf Foods facility has been completed.

## **The Newsgroup Renovations**

**2500 Vauxhall Place, Richmond**

**Project Coordinator: Brendon Vining**

After extensive work on the exterior of the building, the shift is to the inside work. Re-lamping the warehouse with a new T5HO fluorescent fixture after receiving a BC Hydro incentive for switching to a power smart fixture. Currently looking at the feasibility of putting a mezzanine in the warehouse to accommodate more office staff, as well as remodeling their four washrooms.

## **Rempel bros. Batch Plant**

**Maple Ridge**

**Project Manager: Greg Lea/Superintendent: Del Cratty**

Our portion of the project was complete March 31. The owner is currently installing and commissioning the various systems. They hope to be fully functional by mid May 2008.

## **Longo Developments Glenwood Estates**

**8168 Glenwood Drive, Burnaby**

**Project Manager/Superintendent: Chris Monkman**

Will be starting to erect the panels the first week of May. Structural steel, decking and roofing are all on schedule and ready

to follow suit. Site stripping and lock block walls will start up again. Once completed, we can finish the site work. Anticipated move in date for the tenant will be September 1st, 2008.

## **New Office Facility for Mill & Timber Products Ltd.**

**11711-130 Street, Surrey**

**Project Manager: Greg Lea/Superintendent: Del Cratty**

This 25,000 sq. ft., two-storey office building is designed with a piled foundation and allows for a third floor addition at a later date. Tilt-up panels and curtain wall glazing form the building exterior. Test piles are complete. Awaiting the development variance permit and building permit. Site prep currently underway.

## **Murray Pontiac Addition - Abbotsford Auto Mall**

**30355 Auto Mall Drive, Abbotsford**

**Project Manager: Greg Lea/Superintendent: Tim Payne**

The work here is comprised of a 3,000 sq. ft. showroom addition and a 2,500 sq. ft. shop addition. Have a demolition permit and have applied for the development and building permits. Curtain walled showroom will fit with GM Image Program Guidelines.

## **Canada Bread**

**6350 203 Street, Langley**

**Project Manager: Hamid Roust/Superintendent: Dan Norris**

This project was substantially completed on March 24, 2008 and received final approvals on April 15, 2008.

## **Southside Nissan**

**290 S.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver**

**Project Manager: Hamid Roust/Superintendent: Colin Bonney**

Currently completing the working drawings and implementing the changes made by the owner for submission for building permit application to the City of Vancouver. Presently carrying on with minor demolition and some framing for the customer lounge.

## **JP Lease**

**4975 Regent Street, Burnaby**

**Project Manager: Hamid Roust/Superintendent: Colin Bonney**

Received the building final on February 28.

## **Around RAM**

### **Congratulations...**

Pat on the back to both Chris Armstrong and Jeff Bergen who completed their Level 3 First Aid.

Congrats are in order for Brock McCallum who completed his level four carpentry apprenticeship in March.

### **Good Luck...**

Good luck to Erik Johnson who is currently finishing up his fourth and final level of carpentry apprenticeship.

Wishing all the best to Brendon Vining

who's attending BCIT night classes. He's currently taking "Basic Project Management Skills" and "Construction Documents and Contracts".

### **Welcome...**

Ram would like to welcome to the field, Vladimar Bezchleba.

### **Welcome Back...**

Glad to have Chris Armstrong back on the site after being off with a hand injury.

### **Good-bye...**

Farewell to Dave Goodwin, Marty Lowe and Kerry Street.

### **Condolences...**

Both Derek Randall and Duane Venturini will be greatly missed and we offer our condolences to their families for the loss of both these men.

### **RAM GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The annual golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday June 7th at the Surrey Golf Club.