



Lori Carruthers



Jeff Rockwood



Nick Agius

Experience Counts in Fort Saskatchewan

BC BEARING ENGINEERS LTD. recently opened a new branch in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. While this team is new to BC Bearing, Lori Carruthers, Jeff Rockwood and Nick Agius are all very familiar with the plants, the people and most of all, the rotating equipment at each facility in the area.

Nick also has a unique set of skills for solving problems on large cooling towers as well as air-cooled heat exchangers, fans and drive systems. He holds two patents and has two published technical papers. Well known in the turbo-machinery rotating-equipment community in Alberta and beyond, his special skill set takes him as far away as Irving Oil refinery in New Brunswick and North Atlantic Refinery NFLD, as well as to all the Canadian refineries in between (also

serviced out of the new Fort Saskatchewan branch). "His experience and skills are unmatched in Canada, he solves equipment problems at other refinery and petro-chemical facilities all over the world, thanks to the Internet," says Brent Pope, VP of sales and marketing for BC Bearing Engineers Ltd.

This new team has over 50 years of combined experience to support the Refinery Row, Fort Saskatchewan and Upgrader Alley areas. Nick says: "It takes strong inside customer-service people to win the larger accounts and Lori and Jeff are the best when it comes to customer service in Fort Saskatchewan and area, they know what downtime costs are to these plants and if they have to rent a Lear jet to get a customer going, they don't hesitate." **BCB**



Tops at TechCan

DERMOT STRONG recently presented **Knut Gausvik** with an award for the Most Improved Sales Growth of all BC Bearing subsidiary companies in 2008. Dermot noted that, "TechCan had a phenomenal year and it was encouraging to see such success just 18 months after their move from being a branch of BC Bearing. Well done, Knut, Scott and all the crew at TechCan!" □

Goals On and Off the Ice



THERE'S PLENTY OF ANECDOTAL evidence to support the fact that a lot of business deals are made during the course of a round of golf – in Fort Saskatchewan, the BC Bearing team is looking to ink some deals on the ice.

When Nick Agius joined BC Bearing as its Fort Saskatchewan-based technical sales manager last August, he knew it was time to get into game shape for the 10th Annual 2009 Industrial Cup Hockey Tournament. "All the refineries in the Fort Saskatchewan area participate in this event," he says. "It's great for business, it's fun for the community, and extra proceeds are donated to the Lions Club."

BC Bearing signed up as a sponsor and between March 31 and April 4 Agius hit the ice with clients and colleagues in Josephburg. "There were 12 teams, and BC Bearing partnered with Baldor-Reliance," he says. "We played good, hard hockey, won a game, lost two and won all three shoot-outs." Nightly socials, prizes and a final banquet rounded out the event.

Will Agius urge BC Bearing to co-sponsor the 2010 Tournament? "Absolutely," he replies. "This is what being part of the community is all about. Plus, who knows what new business opportunities could arise when professionals from different industries get together?" **BCB**

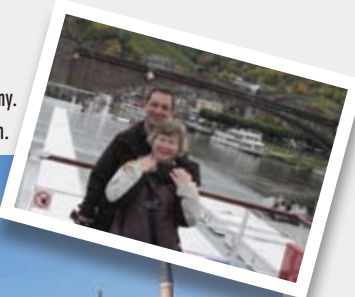
courtesy the BC Bearing Group

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

DON FREITAS, Purchasing Manager, BC Bearing Engineers Ltd.

Every issue of the *Communicator* features a profile of a BC Bearing employee. In this issue, we get to know **Don Freitas, Purchasing Manager for BC Bearing Engineers Ltd.**

Right: Don and Jean Freitas in Cochem, Germany.
Below: Turkey, another favourite destination.



DON FREITAS CELEBRATED 24 YEARS as a BC Bearing employee in February, so one could be forgiven for thinking that he likes staying in the same place.

However, outside of work Don – who turns 49 this year – enjoys nothing more than jetsetting around the world with wife Jean.

Every two years, the couple, who married in 1983 and live in Port Coquitlam, plan a "big trip" and most recently cruised along the Rhine and Moselle rivers in Europe.

Don says Turkey, Greece and Italy are three of their favourite travel spots – though they've also ventured as far afield as southeast Asia (Hong Kong to Singapore) and the Cook Islands, just off the coast of New Zealand. "We love to travel and have visited many countries over the years."

They also share a 12-year passion for wine, and often try to find ways to indulge both passions. "Our last trip took us through the heart of Riesling country (in Germany) and we tried lots of great white wines," says Don. "Our trip through Italy was also memorable and we tasted many fine red wines in the Tuscany region."

Don is also an avid golfer and gets out 10 to 20 times a year between April and September – though says he wishes it were more! He plays to a 20 handicap and has run the company's annual golf tournament the last six years.

It's fair to say Don has persistently pumped the same kind of passion he has for travelling, wine and golf into his career – which has been BC Bearing-based since 1985.

He began as a shipper receiver, did 12 months of expediting, four years of inside sales and then landed the warehouse manager's job at the Burnaby distribution centre in 1992 – his first taste of purchasing.

It was obviously pretty sweet on the palate – when the warehouse manager's job was divided in 2003, Don became purchasing manager and he's occupied that role ever since.

"I've loved working for BC Bearing the last 24 years and hope to retire here," he says. "It's been a great ride so far. It's a well-run company and the family have always looked after the employees very well."

Don is on a mission to centralize the purchasing department, so that purchasing for all the company's branches goes directly through him. He says it's proving to be a challenging goal – but for a man as successful and popular as Don, it's surely only a matter of time before he achieves his objective. **BCB**

~John Atkinson

EDMONTON'S BELT SLITTER

THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS have been busy ones for the Edmonton Distribution Centre team with the recent installation of the Beyer WSM100B timing belt slitter. Working alongside **Guenther Bundels** and **Chris Sloan** from Optibelt's Toronto headquar-

ters, the German manufactured belt slitter was installed, and **Jesse Searle**, EDC Warehouse Lead, has been trained on this fully automated timing belt slitter. The only other unit of its kind in North America is in Optibelt's Toronto location. □



Pool Power



MOST PEOPLE WHO INTERACT WITH BC Bearing Group have spoken at one time or another with **Georgina Lopez**, executive assistant to chairman and CEO Wendy McDonald. For those of us who have met her and wondered how she keeps in such great shape, the answer is: she spends a lot of time in the swimming pool.

In mid-April Georgina joined other swimmers in the Masters Swimming Association

of B.C. meet in Duncan and powered her way to five gold medals. She won gold in the 50-metre freestyle; 100-metre freestyle; 50-metre backstroke; 200-metre medley relay and the 50-metre butterfly. She added to her collection of medals with silver in the 50-metre breaststroke. **BCB**

If you're interested in finding out more about Masters swimming, go to: www.msabc.ca