



March 2009

## RESCAN: Creating opportunity



Leonard Sinclair is looking for experienced environmental scientists and engineers to join his team. Sinclair is the manager for the newly-opened Saskatchewan office of Rescan Environmental Services Ltd., an international environmental consulting firm headquartered in Vancouver with several offices in British Columbia and Washington State and satellite offices in Peru and Chile. Rescan has over 30 years of environmental experience with major resource developments for industry, institutions and governments around the world. Rescan was drawn here initially by BHP Billiton's potash project and the ongoing development of the province's natural resources.

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*Rescan is an international environmental engineering and services company providing environmental management services to industry, institutions and governments on a worldwide basis.*

"Even though there's a downturn in the world economy, Saskatchewan's resource sector has so many opportunities that are still going to be developed," says Sinclair. "The companies we consult for have a long-term view of resource development projects and Rescan is well qualified and experienced with environmental and community impact assessment of those projects."

The first big project is the impact assessment for BHP Billiton's proposed potash mine near Jansen, about 140 km southeast of Saskatoon. Rescan developed and produced the Jansen Potash Project Proposal which BHP Billiton submitted to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to initiate the environmental review process. Now, Rescan is developing a fully functioning office in Saskatchewan to continue with the more detailed assessment.

*continued on page 2 . . .*

## Rescan

... continued from page 1

"You have to cover the full scope of the project and look at potential impacts a mine development would have on everything from the soil and water to wildlife, fisheries and air quality and then you have to identify all the potential issues" says Sinclair. "We also provide strategies for future mitigation, monitoring and management for potential effects."

Sinclair is quick to point out that the impact assessment looks at factors well beyond the immediate natural environment. The social and economic impact for nearby communities is also considered.

"Good communication with the local communities and First Nations communities is key to this type of project," says Sinclair. "For example, we need to consider what effect a large number of workers would have on nearby communities, on traffic patterns and housing opportunities." Public consultations are held as part of the development of the impact assessment. The public gets to participate and review the assessments and predictions and provide comments before a final decision to approve the development is made by the government.

Construction of the Jansen Potash Project could start as early as 2011, which means Sinclair needs to get his team together at Rescan's new Saskatoon office, and get to work!

If you would like to receive an electronic version of THE scene please email [webmaster@innovationplace.com](mailto:webmaster@innovationplace.com)

## Data recovery at Innovation Place

If you have ever dropped your laptop and then heard a horrible grinding sound when you turned it back on, you may know the agony of losing data. For many people, the effort to recover lost computer files begins and ends in frustration at the local computer repair shop where technicians use software-based recovery tools. But even for severely damaged hard drives there is another option that may be more affordable than you think.

Thanks to an ever-expanding partner network, that laptop, hard drive, or a whole host of removable media devices, could be packed up and shipped off to OneWorld Data Recovery's office and lab in the Concourse building at Innovation Place in Saskatoon.

"From my grandma needing help with her digital photos to IT professionals with a crashed server, everyone's data is valuable to them and we want to make it as easy as possible for them to get it back," says Wayne McAlpine, co-founder of OneWorld Data Recovery.

McAlpine and his partners have assembled a team of computer engineering professionals and given them the right tools, including a class 100 clean room; a highly controlled environment with minimal airborne dust or contaminants. OneWorld Data Recovery boasts a very high success rate in recovering data from electronic devices suffering from physical damage or logical damage such as deletions or corruptions. The process includes drive restoration, disk imaging and then data retrieval.

Of course physical damage, like dropping, is not the only way people lose data. Viruses and hackers can cause problems as well. So OneWorld Data Recovery has teamed up with four of the top ten antivirus developers in the world to market its newest product known as Total Data Protection. McAlpine says the idea is to build customer loyalty by providing good old fashioned customer service. "If it's complicated, nobody is going to use it. Our package includes an antivirus program, on- and off-site backup as well as data recovery software so it really is protection made easy." By providing an easy to use data protection package, McAlpine expects to build loyalty with computer users and computer consultants who will turn to OneWorld Data Recovery for help when serious issues arise. His goal is to drive down the cost of data recovery so it is accessible to everyone.

"Data recovery is like a black art to a lot of people. They have no idea how it's done and often just give up without exploring all their options," says McAlpine, who is currently working with others in the industry to develop a certification program for data recovery technicians. He says industry standards will help to bring costs down and build people's confidence in the system.

The new Total Data Protection package is available at retailers across the country. For more information about data recovery go to [www.oneworlddatarecovery.com](http://www.oneworlddatarecovery.com).

## A cluster of infrastructure research

Putting sensors into buried water mains to monitor their condition sounds pretty straightforward until you get into the details, like how to power those sensors. Riad Al Wardany with the National Research Council Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research (NRC-CSIR) in Regina and Ali Tazari a student with the University of Regina are working to develop a different kind of power supply system for in-pipe wireless underwater sensors. Instead of using electrical wires or regularly changing batteries, the system takes advantage of water flow to turn a small generator which creates power to feed the monitoring sensors. Better monitoring of water mains means a more reliable water supply system for communities.

This is just one of the innovative projects building Saskatchewan's reputation as a hotbed of sustainable infrastructure research. Innovation Place is home to several key players in this cluster of expertise, including the NRC-CSIR that recently received \$4 million in renewed federal funding. The investment in the "sustainable infrastructure technology cluster" is designed to encourage further collaboration and partnerships across all levels of government, universities and private industry.

That collaboration is facilitated in part, by having several key players in close proximity to each other at Innovation Place. NRC is neighbour to the University of Regina's Centre for Sustainable Communities and Centre for Studies in Energy and Environment on the third floor of the PTRC building. Just next door in the Terrace is the NRC Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) and Communities of Tomorrow, a non-profit enterprise which brings together private sector companies, researchers and municipalities to develop new municipal infrastructure solutions in Saskatchewan.

John Lee, the president of Communities of Tomorrow, says it's important for researchers to be able to move quickly in developing innovative solutions to real world challenges. "Too often a good idea can sit on a lab bench for lack of funding or support to move forward. A municipality may be facing an infrastructure challenge and need a solution. Industry may have an innovative product or process but lack the means or knowledge to move it to commercialization or simply to solve a costly problem. Our role is to capture those opportunities before they are lost by providing early stage research and development funding, market research and commercialization expertise as well as access to a municipal living lab like the City of Regina."

From water main monitoring to transit vehicle tracking, from infrastructure asset management system support to traffic roadway development, the wide variety of research being carried out in Regina around sustainable infrastructure all share a common objective: to improve public safety and health while reducing long-term infrastructure maintenance costs.

For more information about the clients at Innovation Place, please go to our website at [www.innovationplace.com/regina](http://www.innovationplace.com/regina).

## Welcome to new clients

### **MPT Mustard Products and Technologies**

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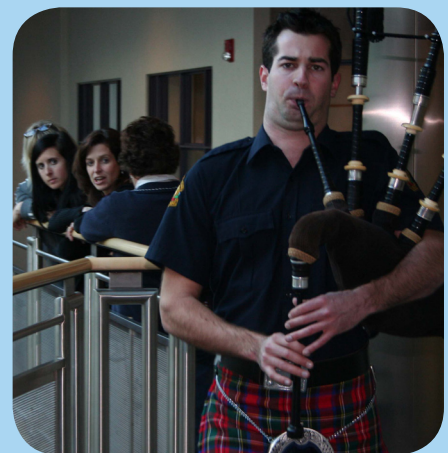
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[www.mptmustardproducts.com](http://www.mptmustardproducts.com)

MPT Mustard Products and Technologies is a research and development company that has developed the technology to produce biopesticides and biofertilizers from mustard seed.

### **New President & CEO at Ag-West Bio**

Congratulations to Ian McPhadden on his recent appointment as President and CEO of Ag-West Bio. He will be supported in his role by Pete Desai. Both have served for many years on the Ag-West Bio board of directors.

For more information, please visit [www.agwest.sk.ca](http://www.agwest.sk.ca)



Clients in the Concourse came out of their offices to listen as the piper made his rounds on Robbie Burns Day.

*Below: February weather has brought about warm days, cold days and frost.*



## Commercialization through collaboration

It's fitting the view from Glen Schuler's office on the fifth floor of 121 Research Drive includes Innovation Place buildings in the foreground and both the University of Saskatchewan and the downtown skyline in the background. Schuler is the new managing director of the university's Industry Liaison Office (ILO). He says the view reflects his own mission to see the university, government and the business community working together to create the best possible environment for start-up companies and transferring technology to existing local companies. "A lot of times tech transfer offices are just there to protect intellectual property, but I think our real goal is to commercialize it to the benefit of the inventor, the University and also the local economy."

ILO has been a research park client for about six months. Schuler himself has only been with ILO for just over two months, arriving from the University of Tennessee where he was Director of the MBA Program. Schuler says on his first visit to Saskatoon he was impressed to see such a successful research park right next door to the University. He says it's a great foundation for success but he wants to see the business community play a bigger role in getting research results off the lab bench and into the marketplace faster and more efficiently.

"We would like to get people from the business community to help us review the ideas for commercialization early on to provide feedback even before there's a formal business review. Once companies are into the start-up phase, we'd like to look to the local business community for mentors, sources of financing both as angel investors or venture capitalists, and as future customers."

Schuler also has plans to tap into the skills of MBA students at the Edwards School of Business. "My perspective of this commercialization process is that it is very collaborative. We're here to accelerate commercialization but we can't do it on our own."

For more information about the University of Saskatchewan's Industry Liaison Office, please go to [www.usask.ca/research/ilo](http://www.usask.ca/research/ilo).

For more information or to submit an item for **THE SCENE**, please contact us at:  
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