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A heartfelt thank you to our Cold Storage attendants and helpers.



Staff of PRT Coldstream, winners of the 2014 President's Safety Award.

SAFETY GROWS FROM THE BOTTOM UP: PRT COLDSTREAM EPITOMIZES COMPANY'S SAFETY CULTURE

Congratulations to PRT Coldstream, winners of our President's Safety Award for 2014. Safety has always been a prime focus at PRT, but since the implementation of SafeStart® training throughout our organization two years ago, a new employee-led safety culture has emerged.



At PRT, we have a detailed safety and compliance program to ensure our sites go above and beyond legal requirements. The most important aspect of that program is employee awareness. SafeStart training is about avoiding the mistakes we never meant to make in the first place. It's about recognizing physical states that put us at risk to make the kind of critical errors that cause everyday occurrences to result in injury.

"SafeStart has turned our safety culture from top down enforcement to bottom up ownership," says PRT Coldstream Manager Elizabeth Brown. "After the core group of employees here received the training, there was a steady shift from management setting and enforcing safety procedures to employees leading the way. Proactively requesting more hearing and eye protection. Pointing out possible hazards at pre-work tailgate meetings. It's been a great success."

Similar results have been mirrored across our company and with SafeStart clients in more than 50 countries around the world. Enhancing an employee's ability to recognize hazardous risk patterns helps improve safety habits not only at work, but also at home and on the road.

That's not to diminish the role played by safety management. As PRT President Rob Miller stressed in presenting the award: "A safe workplace is a product of great safety culture. Without this foundation, good safety results are difficult to sustain.

"The winning nursery has made safety awareness and risk reduction an important part of how they operate and showed strong evidence that safety awareness systems were in place and operating at the site. Safety leadership was commendable, backed up by training and above-and-beyond compliance with PRT's safety policies."

Once again, congratulations to PRT Coldstream and to the managers and employees throughout our organization who make safety a priority every day.

EXCITING NEWS FROM BIONERA

PRT is pleased to announce the appointment of **Marc Poirier** as General Manager of Bionera Resources Inc., our wholly owned subsidiary specializing in purpose-grown woody crops.

Marc joined PRT in 1998 and became the Nursery Manager at PRT Summit in October of that year. In 2002 Marc moved to PRT Campbell River, first as Operations Manager, then Nursery Manager. Since 2008, he's been our Manager of Nursery Development and has carried out several major projects including the construction of the new shelterhouses at PRT Campbell River. Marc also has extensive overseas experience working with nursery consultants in Tunisia, Mexico and China.

A professional agrolgist, Marc holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, as well as a Masters of Science, Soil Science, from Laval University. In recent years, he's worked closely with Bionera President John Kitchen and our partners to develop effective processes and equipment for establishing large-scale willow crops. In his new position, Marc will oversee all aspects of this exciting new business including customer support, production and administration.

"Teamed with our residuals management partner, SYLVIS, Bionera established its first commercial-scale willow crop in southern Alberta this past summer," says Rob Maxwell, Vice President of Production at PRT. "Next year, in addition to managing this plantation, we expect to have a similar size project to establish as well as a second, smaller contract near Edmonton."

Utilizing both our in-house willow cutting production and our experience in crop establishment, Bionera is contributing significantly to PRT's growth, diversification and success.



Marc Poirier
General Manager
Bionera Resources
Inc.

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES JOIN THE PRT TEAM

We are pleased to announce **Dylan Pii** re-joined PRT Hybrid as Operations Superintendent effective September 29, 2014.

Dylan began his career at Hybrid Nurseries in 1997. Over the next 14 years, he progressively took on new challenges, eventually being promoted to Foreman of the operation. In that role he was an integral part of the team during the PRT transition in 2004.

Since moving on to pursue other goals in 2011, Dylan continued his training and education by completing many certificates including horticulture training from the University of Guelph. We are excited to have Dylan back at PRT to further strengthen the team at Hybrid. He was a significant contributor to improvements in operations, safety and productivity during his previous term with the company and we look forward to working with him as Operations Superintendent.

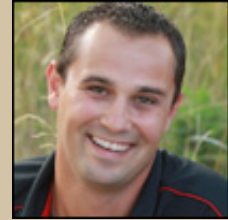
This summer we also welcomed **Doug Gullickson** as the new Manager of PRT Prince Albert in Saskatchewan. Prior to joining PRT, Doug held various positions within the Parks Canada Agency, most recently Environmental Assessment Scientist at Prince Albert National Park. Previous to that, he was a Fisheries Protection Biologist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Saskatchewan). In addition, he's held federal park warden positions for Parks Canada including Senior Park Warden in Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories.

Doug graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and also holds a Diploma in Renewable Resources. He has extensive project management experience and brings a proven track record of operational leadership, safety, training and teamwork to his new role at PRT Prince Albert.

Briggs Lipsitz is the new Production Superintendent for PRT Oregon, our nursery situated 25 miles south east of Portland in the community of Hubbard, ON. Bringing to PRT 12 years of experience in the horticulture industry, he was responsible for the propagation of 11 million cuttings annually in his previous position in Grand Haven, MI.

During the last six years, Briggs took on responsibilities in operations management and implemented lean flow production methods and provided leadership for various continuous improvement projects.

Briggs received his Bachelor of Technology Degree in Plant Science from State University of New York. He also currently serves as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.



Dylan Pii

PRT Hybrid



Doug Gullickson

PRT Prince Albert



Briggs Lipsitz

PRT Oregon

STANDING UP TO THE TEST: HOW OUR QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM WORKS

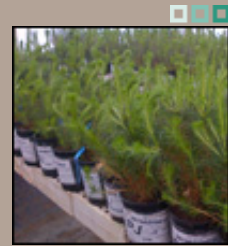
At PRT, we're known for quality and consistency in our products and service. In large measure that is due to our stringent company-wide Quality Assurance (QA) Program.

The goal of the program is to prevent, to the greatest extent possible, the delivery of non-viable seedlings to our customers. For all orders over 5,000 trees, our QA Program allows us to guarantee viability of 90% or more of seedlings shipped to customers as determined in a potting test for each seedlot/product combination. This is not a warranty of field survival as there are too many factors beyond our control to allow for that level of guarantee, but it does provide a great degree of reassurance to our customers that the seedlings are healthy and viable when they leave the nursery.

Part of this program includes storability or frost hardiness testing in the fall to determine when seedlings can be lifted safely into freezer storage. Growers collect seedlings from representative seedlots in the nursery based on latitude and elevation. Seedlings are then subjected to freezing temperatures (-18°C; -0.4°F) in a programmable freezer, after which they are placed in a greenhouse or growth chamber and any frost injury/damage is assessed visually. Low incidence of injury represents high frost tolerance. Where available, nurseries use variable fluorescence to measure the effect of the test on the photosynthetic mechanism of the seedlings. This is an extremely reliable method to determine when it is safe to harvest seedlings.

In addition to this, PRT removes samples from each seedlot well in advance of shipment to carry out a potting test. This simple test demonstrates viability of seedlings through adequate root growth and bud flush. Sample seedlings are potted and grown for 28 days in a greenhouse with day temperatures ranging from 18°C (64°F) to 28°C (82°F) and night temperatures from 12°C (54°F) to 24°C (75°F). While the potting test is not a guarantee of field performance or vigor, any major crop problem is likely to be uncovered before the seedlings are planted.

If you're interested in more information on PRT's Quality Assurance Program, please contact the Customer Support Representative nearest you or visit our web site at www.prt.com.



Potting Test

COOL HEADS AND WARM HEARTS: A SALUTE TO OUR COLD STORAGE ATTENDANTS

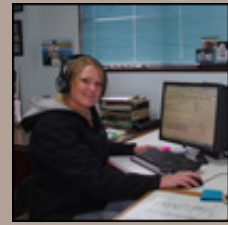
In an organization the size of PRT, with 13 nursery sites in Canada and the United States, there are hundreds of hardworking individuals each playing a vital role. Today we'd like to recognize a group who, by the very nature of their jobs, frequently gets left in the cold.

PRT Cold Storage specialists and helpers are instrumental in the on-time delivery of seedlings to customers. When we receive thaw orders for Spring shipments, our Cold Storage attendants remove frozen seedlings from our coolers and carefully thaw each requested order prior to shipping. They also arrange for trucking, manage trucking documents, remain in contact with customers throughout the process and ensure that the requested seedlings leave on time.

"On paper it sounds straightforward, but during a hectic planting season which can include many shipment changes by customers, things can get very exciting. It's then that having a cool head pays off for our CS specialists," says Herb Markgraf, PRT Vice President of Marketing. "Every time Customer Support Representatives and I visit clients, they invariably mention the PRT Cold Storage attendants and how much they appreciate their help."

We'd like to recognize all these attendants and helpers and let them know how much our customers and we appreciate their efficiency, professionalism and grace under pressure. A warm thank you goes out to: Susie Pollard (*PRT Campbell River*), Allison van Ewyk (*PRT Armstrong*), Jackie Pollard (*PRT Harrop*), Elizabeth Brown and Kyle Maddocks (*PRT Coldstream*), Nola Weston and Darren Simmons (*PRT Summit*), Jeff Ernst and Keith Rochon (*PRT Red Rock*), Maxine Martens (*PRT Beaverlodge*), Mike Morris (*PRT Dryden*), Dan Doherty (*PRT Kirkland Lake*), Brianne MacDougall and Melissa Tuuri (*PRT Hybrid*), Don Mendenhall (*PRT Oregon*), and Rhonda Roach and Forrest Dogger (*PRT Prince Albert*).

Again, our gratitude to you all and keep up the good work!



Cool on the job

Contact Us

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To contact our editor, to comment on a story or to report any concerns, [please click here](#).