

on the JOB

If you've been tuned into the news, you might think the region has slowed right down to a halt and everyone has put up 'gone (ice) fishing' signs. But as Kathryn Engel and the rest of the NWB staff find out each month, the Alberta/BC resource base has been relatively fortunate enough to not be facing the same alarming loss of jobs affecting communities elsewhere. In this regular feature, NWB drops in on workers doing a variety of jobs as a way to both educate readers who might not know the details of some professions and, at the same time, simply celebrate the good labour the region has been blessed with from one end to the other.

This month, as Kathryn Engel found out, some workers are so strongly bucking the trend they hardly have time to stop for a coffee between calls.

This month meet Trevor Siebert from Radium Industrial Solutions in Grande Prairie, who brings new meaning to the term manager.

Trevor Siebert: manager, Radium IS, Grande Prairie



"You can't call a customer up and say your truck won't be ready because I want to sleep! I do dispatching when our dispatchers are off or sick, you name it, I do it! I always joke around to Joe that if you're a useful guy, you'll be used!"



Today, you're dispatching, and by how busy you are, there seems to have been no slowdown for you. Are you bucking the global trend?

We're actually in a good place; we've always done a lot of production work, a lot more production-type work than rig work, which hasn't been our main focus. So when drilling is slower, we do plant-work turn around, rental equipment cleaning – after equipment is used it's very dirty and when it comes back to town, we clean it. We clean anything and everything, we have shaker units, shale bins, large barrels coming in, we clean it all and because we're located right in the heart of everything (McRae Industrial Park), guys know it is easy to just bring it right over and we'll have it cleaned right up. That is actually keeping us busy, if we have guys who haven't been dispatched out on a job, we are keeping them busy in the shop cleaning equipment that comes in dirty from the field.



So, making yourself available for a wider variety of projects is the key now?

Yes. We have been able to stay busy just by doing such a variety of work and doing it out in the field or in the shop, being flexible. We have a lot of different types of equipment so we can keep busy doing a lot of different kinds of jobs, too – we have vac combo units and steamer trucks, boilers that heat water to blow stem for things like thawing pipelines and wellheads. Cleaning is a big part of our work. I like to think of us as oilfield janitors, we keep everything clean and running smoothly out there. A lot of times we're being called to help out, something needs fixing, so we're here to help, too.



And you, yourself, what does being the manager mean to you? Give us a glimpse of what you all might find yourself doing from day to day.

Well, I started out as a dispatcher here, and then I drove truck, did sales, and now as a manager, I do all of those, and then actually manage, of course, hire and fire and all of that, too – I do what I need to do whenever I need to do it! We have a certified heavy-duty mechanic, which I'm not – certified – but I am a mechanic and work on our boiler systems, pumps, that kind of thing I can work on. In fact, before Christmas we were so busy Joe (owner, Hindboe) and I were in here a lot of nights until three in the morning getting our trucks that would come in from a day's work ready for their next job at five the next morning. That's just what you have to do; you can't call a customer up and say your truck won't be ready because I want to sleep! I do dispatching when our dispatchers are off or sick, you name it, I do it! I always joke around to Joe that if you're a useful guy, you'll be used! **NWB**



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