

Thank you, Roy



If you know PNR RailWorks Superintendent Roy Watson, you know that he isn't one to mince words. He tells it like it is, often loudly, favouring truth over tact. And his coworkers and customers respect him for his direct manner.

He also has a soft side. His coworkers say that beneath a gruff exterior, he is deeply caring. "Loyal" and "kind-hearted" are among the qualities they ascribe to him.

After four decades of dispensing his unique mixture of candor and kindness, Roy is retiring from PNR RailWorks. His career has included involvement in virtually every element of track construction, in roles from Trackman to Superintendent. Along the way he has constructed track that has not only improved the way people and goods move throughout Canada, but also has contributed to building PNR RailWorks into the country's leading track contractor.

Roy started out in 1973 with PNR RailWorks' forerunner Pacific Northern Rail Contractors (PNR) as a Trackman, later operating equipment such as loaders and small boom trucks before working many years as a Foreman and, in 1996, becoming a Superintendent. A highlight

for Roy as a Superintendent was a three-year stint in Malaysia. It was 1996 when he and some others from PNR, working as a subcontractor to SNC-Lavalin, began building a light rail system in Kuala Lumpur. Now known as the Kelana Jaya Line, the 29 km line is the world's fourth-longest fully automated driverless metro system.

Along with the PUTRA project, Roy has left his mark on the Vancouver SkyTrain (multiple construction and maintenance projects) and also on countless projects for many customers elsewhere in British Columbia and in Ontario. Over recent years, many Vancouver-area industrial customers have counted on Roy as a dependable ally.

His coworkers feel much the same way about the guy who puts on the coffee at 5 a.m. and the one who won't stop until the job is done right. In the course of his career, Roy has invested in them – teaching, training and leading – to build a team of knowledgeable track professionals who are second to none.

To put it bluntly – and with Roy, that's the only fitting approach – everyone appreciates him, respects him and will most definitely miss him.