

NOW SIX
ISSUES A YEAR

Crane & Hoist

The Business Of Heavy Lifting

CANADA

Volume 4 Issue 3

MAY/JUNE 2013 \$5.00

ERGONOMICS

Canadian firms pursue people-friendly lifting

Workplace ergonomics boosts productivity while improving health and safety

JEFFREY CARTER

Companies like Lift-Safe Engineering and Meerholz Canada get a thumb's up from customers as they deliver improved lifting ergonomics to the workplace.

Representatives of both companies said the objective is to improve health and safety while at the same time maintaining productivity. In some cases, productivity can even be enhanced.

"What we do is provide tools and equipment to reduce the stress on the bodies of employees," said Rob Barrett, Life-Safe director of engineering. "Usually our biggest challenge is to allow the employees to do their job (with a lift assist) as fast as they could without it."

Lift-Safe, near Cambridge, Ont., supplies lifting solutions for a wide range of needs —



Rob Barrett demonstrates a light-rail barrel lift system. It's a back-saving piece of equipment that requires a single worker to operate it. Photo by Jeffrey Carter

everything from materials that could otherwise be physically handled by employees to cranes lifting 100 tons. The company specializes in engineered custom designs.

"One of the nice things about this job is pretty well every day we're working on something new," Barrett said.

.....continued on page 13

RESEARCH

Alberta researchers study crane stability in high winds

Research is expected to enable lift planners to integrate wind data in building information modelling software systems

SAUL CHERNOS

When it comes to selecting and erecting cranes for heavy lifting at high-end construction sites, weather forecasts aren't enough to guarantee safety.

That's the notion behind a new research paper proposing a computerized way to warn crane operators and lift engineers about potentially unstable wind conditions.

The study, "Integrated Building Information Model to Identify Possible Crane Instability caused by Strong Winds," was published last

.....continued on page 15



MEETINGS



Delegates, many in Medieval costumes, gather during the Crane Rental Association of Canada's 2012 conference in Banff. This year's conference is in Toronto.

Toronto hosts CRAC conference

Annual conference takes place May 30 to June 1 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel

KEITH NORBURY

Federal Labour Minister Lisa Raitt leads the list of speakers at this year's Crane Rental Association of Canada annual conference.

The 16th annual event takes place May 29 to June 1 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Toronto.

Raitt, who became labour minister in January 2010, will kick off a list of presentations on Friday, May 31, starting at 9 a.m.

Also on the agenda for Friday morning are Terry Burton, operations resource manager for the Alberta Council of Turnaround Industry Maintenance Stakeholders; Ron Oberth, president of the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries; Eric Etchart, senior vice-president with the Manitowoc Company Inc.; and Fraser Cocks, who chairs the Canadian Hoisting & Rigging Safety Council, and is executive director of the B.C. Association for Crane Safety.

"We're really really honoured to have Lisa Raitt presenting," said Claire Bélanger-Parker, the association's executive

.....continued on page 11

Publications Mail Agreement #40027115 Registration #9920
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
4623 William Head Rd. Victoria BC V9C 3Y7 email: peter@capamara.com