



## The Driver



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## Celebrating 25 years

Welcome to our Spring 2016 Newsletter. This is an exciting year for us, as we are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Year. It seems like only yesterday....!

Ensure you mark June 16 on your calendar. This will be our Open House. Every one is invited to come by and help us celebrate. We'll (actually Stu will, again) have the barbeque going from 1100 to 1400. And, of course, there will be Birthday Cake. I'm sure there will be plenty of food, Sherry is taking care of that, but you can call us to hold a burger if you are running late. RSVPs would be helpful as well. This will be going rain or shine. We welcome all our neighbours, customers, suppliers, and local dignitaries to drop by to meet the KJTL team.

Inside you'll read more about the newest members of our team; Professional Drivers Doug, Bruce and Zaffy, Noah and Spencer in our shop, and Rod in Operations/ Dispatch. I welcome all of you to Ken Johnson Trucking Ltd. And a first for us, Ashley has taken Maternity leave from her position as a Professional Driver. Congratulations to Ashley and her husband on the birth of their daughter.

KJTL has been a member of the BC TransCAER Committee

for over 20 years. TransCAER (**T**ransportation **C**ommunity Awareness and **E**mergency **R**esponse) is part of the public outreach of the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada. We participated in a large event in Nanaimo last December. We have pictures of that inside. The next event we are participating in will be in Ashcroft on June 2, hosted by Ashcroft Terminals. We expect to see many First responders from the Fraser Canyon and the Cariboo attending.

If you would like us to provide Tank Trailer specific training to your operation please contact me. We would be pleased to arrange to have our Training Trailer come to you.

June 18, the Saturday after our Open House, many members of our KJTL team will be busy assisting at the BC Professional Truck Driving Championship, and cheering on all the drivers entered in the competition. We do maybe show a little more enthusiasm for our own drivers! It is being held again at Tradex in Abbotsford. Professional Drivers from all over BC compete in 5 classes, the winners in each

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### Celebrating 25 years, cont'd

form the Provincial team which then moves on to the National Championship in September.

If you have Professional Drivers I encourage you promote this event and support your drivers who want to enter it.

This is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize our Professional Drivers. He or she is the “face” of KJTL and of the shipper at the delivery locations.

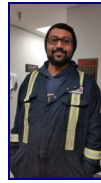
With our diversified customer base and highly experienced driving staff we have not been as severely impacted by the turmoil in the oil patch, certainly not like many in Alberta.

Here's hoping our Provincial and Federal governments and regulators realize the “economy” starts when you dig up or pump out something from the ground, cut down a tree, or make something. The “service” industry, and that includes us as well, only exists to service the real engine of the economy; producing a product that someone else wants to purchase.

Be safe.

Ken

### Ken Johnson Trucking welcomes the following new employees:



Zaffy Khan

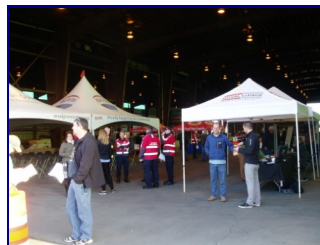


Noah Moorhouse



Spencer Gillis

## TransCAER Event December 2015, Nanaimo BC



## Check out the newest addition to our fleet.

These new oil trailers come with the latest safety enhancements:

- Disc brakes with ABS
- Roll stability control
- Automatic axle lifting (to save fuel and tire wear when running empty)
- Automatic steer axle lift when backing
- Automatic activation of back up lights and alarm when reversing
- Improved fall protection railings made of stainless steel

And they have delivery enhancements too:

- In transit heat to keep oil warm in winter
- Pump built into cabinet to keep clean and warm



## **2016 Open House and** **25 Anniversary Celebration**

**We're celebrating 25 years in business at our open house!**

**Please join us on Thursday, June 16th between 11:00 and 2:00 for a barbecue and a tour. We'd appreciate an RSVP so we can prepare enough food!**



### **Stuart Jones, Operations Manager, provides this update:**

#### **“FMCSA publishes electronic logging device final rule”**

“The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has published its highly anticipated final rule, mandating the use of electronic logging devices (ELDs) by interstate drivers of commercial motor vehicles who currently use a driver's record of duty status to record their hours of service.

Motor carriers have until December 18, 2017 to comply with the final rule.

The final rule required motor carriers to install FMCSA- registered and certified ELDs that meet specific standards on their commercial motor vehicles.”

Taken from JJKELLER Safety Training Letter Feb 2016

KJTL Qualcomm meets the standards.

### **Congratulations to the following milestone employees!**



**Kirk Magel**  
Professional Driver  
20 years



**Rod Horncastle**  
Professional Driver  
5 years



**George Roche**  
Professional Driver  
5 years



**Mike Brownell**  
Shop Foreman  
5 years



**Devin Johnson**  
Mechanic  
5 years

Ken Johnson Trucking Ltd. supports the

### **2016 BC Professional Truck Driving Championships!**

Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 to 5:00

at Tradex in Abbotsford

visit [www.bctrucking.com](http://www.bctrucking.com) for more information



## Maternity leave in the trucking industry

In early 2012 Ashley Pepe was involved in social work with disadvantaged children, and working to support her own two young children as a single mom. And while she loved the work she was doing, she quickly realized that it simply didn't pay enough to cover the bills. So she sat down and began making a plan. What career would allow for financial independence as a single mom, with schedule flexibility? Where were the current labour shortages? What job would pay a decent wage for time spent? How could she put to good use her excellent customer service skills, and her love of driving? Trucking quickly rose to the top of the list for satisfying these criteria. So she saved up \$2500 for the Class 1 course, took it, wrote the exam and in December 2012, was a qualified driver.

Because of the importance of the social work she was doing, she waited for several months to ensure a healthy transition for the children she was working with before taking a job with a Surrey trucking company, doing van and flat deck work. It was not a positive introduction to the industry. The equipment was in terrible condition, the management had some pretty shady business practices, and after breaking down for the umpteenth time on the side of the road, Ashley had had enough. When she refused the next unsafe load she was dispatched for, she was promptly given unpaid days off. In the end the company withheld \$5000 in wages from her pay, that she was never successful in recovering. Sitting in a coffee shop on the first day of this illegal suspension, she began searching Craigslist for help wanted ads. This resulted in a call to Stu Jones, Operations Manager here at KJTL and an interview later the same day. She instantly liked what she saw of the company. Even though she was eager to start immediately, Ken insisted she ride along on a delivery to see a bit more of what tanker work entails. So she accompanied Rod Horncastle the very next day, delivering two B-trains of asphalt. This ride-along only served to reinforce her initial impression: she loved it! Particularly refreshing after her recent experience with trucking was Ken's integrity, how well the equipment is maintained and the relief of being able to count on a steady paycheck.

She started out training with Daryl Giesbrecht, a senior driver, and occasionally with Ingrid Giesbrecht as well. She felt privileged to have them training her; they began weeding out some bad driving habits she had already developed. She quickly found more to love about her new job. The challenge of tanker work, where the load pushes and pulls, has been an enjoyable test of her skills. Because her schedule has allowed for a mix of town and highway work, she's been able to indulge her love of variety. The sometimes remote locations of our customers have allowed her to see beautiful scenery she never would have otherwise.

She did experience one memorable moment that was quite frightening: while unloading soap at a Port Moody customer's site, the customer's tank ruptured. After turning off the pump, there was nothing more Ashley could do except watch helplessly while the product kept leaking out of the tank. Fortunately there was a containment area around the tank but the power of liquid at that volume made quite an impression.

And then in the spring of 2015, Ashley discovered that she would be having another baby! Women are already a minority group in the trucking industry; even rarer are women taking maternity leave. It has proven to be a great experience for Ashley. KJTL has been very supportive, and on December 9 Ashley and Cliff welcomed Bentley Lilieth Rose Newman into their family. Now six months old, Bentley is a happy, healthy and beautiful little girl. While enjoying her maternity leave, Ashley looks forward to returning to work she loves. The company is sensitive to their drivers' needs. Other drivers are accessible and willing to share their expertise. And Ken knows every aspect of his business, and remains very hands-on with the day-to-day work. "It's such a confidence-builder working for someone who can do everything they ask you to do, and do it better than you ever could."



We wish Ashley and her family the best, and look forward to her return!