

Aurora Successfully Completes Summer Exploration Program

Aurora's eight week summer exploration program was successfully carried out with a strong focus on safety awareness and teamwork. In addition to our permanent staff, seasonal employment was provided to 22 people from Labrador, mostly from the communities of Postville and Makkovik.

"The summer program was successful in terms of completing or exceeding all planned work on time and without significant injury," said John Jory, Aurora's Exploration Manager. "Our most notable achievement was expanding the Michelin fuel cache from 200 to 500 drums." Fuel will be transported to the site by twin otter aircraft in the winter.

"Important drill site rehabilitation was completed, as well as geologic work including mapping, prospecting, ground geophysical surveys, core relogging and computer 3D modeling."

"This was my first season at Michelin camp and I was pleased to see how everyone worked together as a team and maintained a strong focus on health, safety and environmental performance."



The Michelin fuel cache was expanded this summer to store up to 500 drums of fuel.

Other key achievements also included:

- Delivery of 260 drill platform timbers
- Delivery of 300 pieces of decking for the Michelin fuel cache
- Delivery of a new 50kV generator
- Transfer and installation of the incinerator from the Jacques Lake camp
- Installation of a radio repeater station (~40 km range)
- Extension of the core shed after removal of the core splitting room
- Construction of the new core saw and core saw generator buildings
- Construction of new work sheds; roofing and insulation installed in several buildings
- Set up and demobilized three exploration fly camps
- Built six drill pads for winter drilling
- Built large sleds for removal of winter drill cuttings
- Rehabilitated old drill sites
- Core moved from core shed to core staging area

Aurora did not carry out any drilling activities this summer due to budget cuts during low uranium prices. However, Aurora's parent company, Paladin Energy Ltd., continues to rank Michelin as its primary exploration project and a key part of the company's pipeline of future projects.

Drill pads were constructed in the Michelin area for the 2014 exploration season. Aurora is currently planning for 3,000 to 3,500 metres of drilling in the winter season and is expected to employ 22 to 25 seasonal staff.



Carpenters and pad builders: (l-r) Carl Palliser, Donald Jacque, Bobby Edmunds.



50kV generator was installed at the Michelin camp to handle the extra power needs for winter work. (l-r) Brian Jacque, Steve Barrett, Russell Palliser, Dave Winters.



Aurora sponsored and hosted the Makkovik Trout Festival barbeque in August. Ches Andersen (left), Aurora's Vice-President of Labrador Affairs, cooks hamburgers for community members to enjoy. Serving food is Kathy Andersen and Maxine Andersen.



Teamwork is required in preparing supper at the Michelin camp. Here (l-r) Dennis Jacque, Ryan Pottle, Jenna Penney and Steve Barrett help out in the kitchen to give the cooks a night off.

Aurora Team Member Profiles

Dennis Jacque: Camp Manager

Born and raised in Postville, Dennis is responsible for the daily maintenance of the Aurora camp. With help from the camp maintenance crew, Dennis ensures all tents and facilities always have fuel and propane. In addition, he is responsible for carrying out the scheduled maintenance with snowmobiles, ATV and generators. “It’s a full time job keeping the generator, sewer system and water treatment plants running.”

Dennis is new to this role. “While I have spent three years doing camp maintenance at Michelin, this is my first season as camp manager, and I am enjoying the new challenge. I particularly enjoy operating the excavator and doing small engine repair on the snowmobiles and generators.”

Before working for Aurora Dennis has worked in a variety of roles. “I have worked in many different fields with other companies, including a driller’s helper with Boart Longyear, crab fisherman for six years and assistant mechanic for Postville Lumber for four years.”

What advice would Dennis give to someone who wanted to work as a camp manager? “This job is very demanding and can be difficult spending long periods of time away from family. But I enjoy hard work and the challenges presented to me in this position.”

Aurora Team Member Profiles

Jenna Penney: Logistics Coordinator

Jenna currently lives in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, but lived in Makkovik before that. “When I was eight years old, I moved from Port Hope Simpson to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, then on to Makkovik a few years later. I consider Makkovik to be home, and enjoy spending time with my family and friends there. But I also try to visit my Pop and Aunt Stella in Port Hope Simpson as often as I can.”

Jenna works with Aurora as the camp Logistics Coordinator. She is responsible for the daily planning of helicopter and fixed wing flights, monitoring daily operating costs, ensuring all field staff check in at scheduled times, ordering supplies and helping with other tasks around camp.

“My favorite part of my job is the people I work with. We have a small crew at camp, so we all get to know one another pretty well. It feels more like a big family rather than co-workers.”

The position Jenna holds can be challenging and requires strong organizational skills. “Detailed daily planning is very important, and so is ordering supplies and coordinating flights to and from camp.” Without any of this, things would not run smoothly, especially on travel days. “After ensuring the day is planned, I prefer to help out with carpentry.”

Jenna has been with Aurora periodically since 2007 working as a Geotechnician, and took on the role of Logistics Coordinator in 2012.

“I worked with Aurora for two years before the moratorium, and then decided it was a great opportunity to go back to school. Along with my brother, we both left for North Bay, Ontario, where we completed commercial helicopter flight training at Helicopters Canada.” After flight school Jenna worked for Canadian Helicopters for nearly two years and Altimax Courier as a part-time employee. Jenna received a call early last summer and was very excited to return to work with Aurora again.



Jenna (right) helps Bradford Jacque (left) and Mason Locke (centre) with Michelin camp construction.

Jenna keeps herself busy year round. When not working at Aurora’s camp she can be found at Minipi Outfitters Fly Shop in Happy Valley-Goose Bay as a sales associate.

What advice would Jenna give someone who wanted to be a Logistics Coordinator in a remote place? “Working at a remote site can be challenging and hectic, but also a lot of fun. The only advice I would give to someone looking for this type of job is to stay calm when things get busy, and don’t get overwhelmed. Always make time for socializing and having a laugh with your camp family. Being away from family and friends can be difficult at times, but having a great family here in Michelin camp helps being away much easier.”

Any questions or comments? Please contact us:

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