

COCO COMES TO HELENA

When rectal cancer struck Tracy Donaldson (wife of Rick Donaldson, Vice President and Airports Division Manager) three years ago, she fought back with the medical tools of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. She was joined in her fight against the disease by an extensive group of supportive friends.

While undergoing treatment she became determined to help educate and protect others, and her support group organized into the nonprofit "Friends Against Cancer, Inc.". This group worked with staff members at Exploration Works, a new interactive museum of science and culture, to raise funds and bring the Colossal Colon® (Coco) exhibit to Helena last November.

The Colossal Colon® (Coco) exhibit travels the United States to educate people about colorectal cancer. It is a 40-foot long, four-foot tall, crawl-through replica of the human colon created by Molly McMaster, a colon cancer survivor who was diagnosed on her 23rd birthday.

The exhibit educates the public about colorectal cancer with examples of healthy colon tissue, non-cancerous diseases, polyps and the various stages of colorectal cancer. The exhibit is an important "hands on" tool to educate about early detection and why annual screenings are crucial in the fight against colon cancer.



An estimated 10,000 people toured the exhibit during its six-day installation at Exploration Works. The exhibit was made possible through partnership with St. Peter's Hospital, Exploration Works, and a cash donation from RPA. Volunteer supporters, friends and co-workers helped set up and break down the display, created a variety of informative graphic displays and complementary educational activities, and served as tour guides for visitors coming through the exhibit.



reflections on the past

Doug Widmayer

For 27 years, Doug Widmayer was RPA's Traffic and Transportation Division Manager. He is retired and now sails and lives on the Caribbean Sea.

When I started my career with Bob Peccia in the early summer of 1978, Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA) did not yet exist. Four engineers, three planners, one drafting technician, and a secretary all worked together in a small basement office at 1 Last Chance Gulch in Helena. In November of that same year, Bob signed the incorporation papers; RPA was born.

I remember the talented group of people who were not just my co-workers but my friends. We played on the company volleyball team in the winters and on the RPA softball team during the summers. There were camping trips and packing into the backcountry with horses. Co-workers helped build our cabin in the Elkhorns and we sailed together on Canyon Ferry Lake.

Bob Peccia was my mentor and for this I am so grateful. I recall him making the rounds each morning in the office, with his cup of hot coffee. He took the time to talk to each person and made sure we were all on track and got the help and advice we needed.

I believe one of Bob's greatest programs he established for the future was the company retirement program. At the time, most of us at RPA were young and we were not thinking about retirement. Luckily for us though, Bob was planning ahead! He generously shared with the workers in a way that would provide for their individual futures. For this, we all owe Bob many thanks! This retirement program helped to make it possible for me to chase my dream.

As I sit on my sailboat here in the Caribbean, I can still see all of my old friends and I smile. Thanks for the memories RPA! - Doug Widmayer

GOLFITO

In April 2007, Bob Morton traveled to Golfito, located on the southwestern Pacific Ocean coast of Costa Rica. Tom Stark teamed with Bob on the next trip in June to survey the rainforest for a resort development project planned by Santosha Resorts and Villas based in Carlsbad, California. The development firm plans to design and build a five-star luxury boutique resort that is to be lightly placed on an over 1,000-acre site in the low elevation rain forest.

The two men traveled to the job site daily by horseback with one interpreter, one head guide, and up to three "choppers" who expertly wielded machetes to clear the jungle for survey shots and protect the men from the jungle's unpredictable dangers.

Both RPA representatives noted the survey effort was hard work, physically demanding, fun, challenging, and successful. Their effort brings both men additional satisfaction because the five-star 150 villa resort is being planned with minimal impacts to the earth and the rain forest environment. The resort plan will also supply economic benefits to the community in terms of jobs, a community center, an education center, and a museum.

(Front cover photo - Tom Stark, PLS, Golfito)



ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

HELENA
KALISPELL &
BUTTE, MONTANA



CIVIL ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING
SURVEYING



from our CEO
Robert J. Peccia
CEO/Chairman of the Board

We are an established and solid firm, and it is a pleasure to be associated with such wonderful people as our clients and employees. I am grateful for the privilege.



from our President
Keith A. Jensen
President

Now, in our 30th year of being in business, is a good time to reflect back on the principles of our company. Part of our mission statement says “we use our collective talents to do quality work that is mutually beneficial to our clients, the company, and our employees”. This is the spirit of working together in which the company has always believed. This is a great way to state what we do, and why we do it.

Our clients know how responsive we are in the way we provide services. I am proud of the fact we have not had an irresolvable disagreement with a client in our 30-year history. Not to say we are perfect—nobody is—but we make every effort to accommodate the people who employ us; they deserve our best efforts and our loyalty.

Our employees all know how much RPA values each of their contributions to the company. It is reflected in our policies, our benefits, and the way we treat each other with politeness and respect. This is a company that's worth working for!

As our firm continues to prosper, we also share with others through charitable, educational, environmental, and cultural causes. A list of the agencies to which we contribute can be found on our company website (www.rpa-hln.com).

Today is November 4th, election day, and it is my task to write a message about the future of Robert Peccia and Associates. We have successfully made it through our first 30 years in business but what will the next 30 years bring for our firm?

It seems lately that the television, radio, and newspapers are filled with gloom and doom in the economic world. The volatile stock market has undergone drastic changes; firms are laying off employees, filing for bankruptcy, or closing their doors. Fortunately, we have been somewhat shielded from these economic woes as our revenues are consistent, we have not laid off any staff, and our employees feel secure in their careers. This is because of you—our loyal clients!

Robert Peccia and Associates has never had the business mentality to “staff up” just to take advantage of a booming market, knowing that we may have to let staff go when the market subsides.

Our philosophy has always been one of slow, steady and controlled growth; to hire the absolute best people we can find, treat them well, and promote their longevity for the benefit of our clients who appreciate that they can work with the same team year after year. This is how we have developed important friendships and work relationships with our clients for the past 30 years.

No one can predict with absolute certainty what the future will bring but given our business philosophy and our loyal clientele, we believe in our continued success. As an outward expression of our positive optimism, we have opened a new branch office in the uptown Thornton Building in Butte, designed a new trademark logo, updated our website, and implemented Civil 3D technology. Because our firm is built on a sound business foundation, Robert Peccia and Associates will still be here when the current economic unrest settles down! To all of our clients, we say “thank you”.

NEW BUTTE OFFICE

The firm opened a branch office in the uptown Thornton Building at 65 East Broadway in Butte (406-533-6770). Gary M. Jones, P.E., is managing the branch office. With over 16 years of experience in providing professional engineering services, Gary serves on the Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board and on the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program Advisory Board.

RPA first began working in the Butte community and surrounding area in 1991, when the company, in association with Black and Veatch, provided design and construction administration services for the [Big Hole Water Treatment Plant](#), [Big Hole Pumping Station](#), and the [Moulton Water Treatment Plant](#).

Currently, the company is overseeing construction on the [Butte Senior Housing, Phase III](#) project under construction on the flats in Butte. Also in progress are nearby projects: [Anaconda Headworks Improvements](#), [Anaconda Rest Area](#) on Interstate 90, and the [East Anaconda Industrial Park](#) for Anaconda – Deer Lodge County.



OUR MISSION



To provide consulting engineering services to public and private clients who select our firm to do so, and who are willing to pay for our services. To accomplish this we use our collective talents to do quality work which is mutually beneficial to our clients, the company, and its employees.

2008 AWARDS

Federal Highway Administration The Streets, Highways, and Drainage Division Manager received official notification that two projects – [Flowers Trail Road \(between Chewelah and Usk, WA\)](#) and [U.S. Route 212, Beartooth Highway \(Cooke City, WY\)](#) received Honorable Mentions from the Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Division.



The two highways are both crucial links between communities in remote wilderness areas. The design challenges were complex due to hydrologic, geologic, and climatic issues combined with high elevations and a short construction season.

ACEC-Montana Engineering Competition The firm received word that its Glasgow International Airport LPV Survey project was awarded the 2009 Engineering Excellence Award for Surveying and Mapping Technology. RPA is the first private civil engineering firm in America to independently navigate 470 pages of directives providing survey data for a WAAS-based GPS approach to an airport runway. RPA demonstrated that private firms can match the data quality of dedicated NGS airport survey crews. In the process, RPA helped the Federal Aviation Administration improve its directives.

CE NEWS Magazine National Award For the seventh consecutive year, CE News magazine has ranked Robert Peccia and Associates (RPA) one of the Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For in the United States! RPA is the only Montana civil engineering firm to have ranked in this prestigious competition since its inception in 2001!



NEW OFFICE PLANNED

This year RPA purchased a nearly 80,000-square-foot lot in the Nob Hill Subdivision near the new South Helena Interchange. The firm anticipates designing and building a larger, modern Corporate Headquarters facility that will incorporate LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) elements.

LEED certified buildings use key resources more efficiently when compared to conventional buildings which are simply built to code. They are also healthier work and living environments, which contributes to higher productivity and improved employee health and comfort.

Throughout its 30-year history, RPA has designed with cost-effective, energy efficient and environmentally sound practices. Current projects, including RPA's new office building, embrace sustainability ideals.

NEW KALISPELL OFFICE

In an effort to better serve clients in the surrounding communities, RPA's Flathead Valley branch office moved into a new and much larger office space at 102 Cooperative Way, Suite 300 in Kalispell. An open-house and barbecue was held in early September to celebrate the official move.

