



BUILDINGS

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The new Birds Hill Provincial Park shower and washroom facility.



PROJECT PROFILE

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS FOR BIRDS HILL PROVINCIAL PARK

From floor to ceiling, from fixtures to soap dishes, from sinks to benches, everything in the new Birds Hill Provincial Park shower facility is made of concrete. Westland Construction was proud to serve as the General Contractor for this 3,800 sq ft building that features solar panels, sloped walls, a green roof, radiant in-floor heating, and a drain water heat exchanger. The building includes washrooms, 16 regular showers, two family showers, and two barrier-free showers. *continued on next page*



continued from page 1 "It was an exciting project to work on," said Peter Grose, Westland Construction's CEO. "The walls are 28 feet high and have a rough-sawn timber finish. It's a striking v-shaped design that will impress park-goers. And it was a complex job. When you're pouring concrete on a job that dramatic and intricate, you only have one chance to get it right."

To get it right, Westland turned to Lafarge to ensure that the best possible concrete was used for the job. Lafarge recommended Agilia Architectural, a self-consolidating, fluid concrete.

When you're pouring concrete on a job that dramatic and intricate, you only have one chance to get it right.

"With Agilia, the guys at Westland were able to get the right type of pour for the angles, edges, and finishes they needed," said Dennis Giesbrecht of Lafarge. "It was no easy task and they did a marvellous job. The edge on the angled wedge wall is sharp enough to shave with. What

they did to get a wood finish with concrete required real precision and fine carpentry skills."

The facility, which opened in the spring of 2011, is expected to have a 50-year lifespan. As a concrete structure, it will easily withstand the wear and tear that comes with an annual park crowd of 750,000.

"We love it when a project like this comes along to stretch us," said Grose. "We really enjoy working with innovative designs, remarkable materials, skilled suppliers, and engaged clients." ❏



THE GROSE REPORT

THOUGHTS FROM WESTLAND'S CEO



Peter Grose

My relationship with Westland Construction has come a long way since the summer of 1989. I was still a teenager, and spent the summer sweating on construction sites for Norm Young, the boss back then. It was basic,

tough labour, but I worked hard, and quickly developed a respect for Norm and a passion for his company.

I worked the summers and part-time in the winters to put myself through school. I was studying business at the University of Manitoba and started to work toward my designation as a Chartered Accountant (CA). Then came the curve ball. Norm took

ill and turned his attention to the future of the company he launched in 1979. Norm came to me in the summer of 1995 and asked me to consider buying into the firm.

Norm was a decent man with remarkable business savvy and an outstanding reputation in the industry. He persuaded me to see the buy-in as a great opportunity. He was right. I put aside my CA studies, and instead earned my Certified Management Accounting designation while working full-time at Westland. I took a swing at that curve ball and haven't looked back.

After Norm passed on in 1996, his wife, Aurlie Young, served as the company President for a few years. It was an honour to be her partner, but she was ready to move on by 2003, so I bought her share of the company. Today, I am proud to be the firm's Senior Principal and even years after Norm's passing, I am still inspired by his shining example and see it as my responsibility to uphold Westland's reputation and commitment to excellence.

We believe in fairness at Westland, and we expect ourselves to maintain a professional, progressive attitude. Construction is a fast-paced, high-stakes industry. Our success is based on some key principles including attracting and keeping the best possible personnel, and never walking away from a job until it's done right.

We also believe in the importance of strong communication. I hope this first issue of "Building Up" gives you some insights into our company, our people, and our projects. We'll also be welcoming the thoughts of guest writers from the industry and I thank Ron Hambley of the Winnipeg Construction Association for being our first guest.

Thanks for taking some time to look at our first issue. From all of us at Westland Construction, have a stellar new year. 🎉

Peter Grose is the Chief Executive Officer of Westland Construction Ltd.

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INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

CONSTRUCTION SNAPSHOT... AND THE THINGS THAT KEEP US UP AT NIGHT

BY RONALD HAMBLEY, GUEST WRITER

Without question, there is a great deal of interest in the construction industry in Manitoba. From my perspective, the ICI sector (institutional, commercial, industrial) and engineering sector (bridges, power dams) have been extremely active in the past decade. In 1999, construction dollar volume in Manitoba, tracked by building permits, was \$900 million. That number will reach almost \$2.0 billion at the end of 2011. We have seen significant investments in infrastructure: the Red River Floodway Expansion Project, Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, the new water treatment

plant, new hospitals, recreational facilities, and retail complexes. The local construction industry has managed to complete this work, but not without challenges.

The busier our industry is, the more skilled people we need to meet the demand; there's a labour shortage and it's projected to continue well into the foreseeable future. In response, the industry has been actively involved in training and apprenticeship, advocating immigration programs, enhancing aboriginal participation, and promoting skilled trades as a viable career option for women, young people, and those looking for a career change.

Several other trends are evident in our industry, such as the heightened awareness of safety and health training. Construction safety programs have been a huge and expensive undertaking, but well worth the investment. Parallel to this is the attention being paid to green building practices. Many construction owners, including government,

have embraced LEED certification. LEED has many positive attributes, however, the Canada Green Building Council has been overwhelmed by the certification process, thus causing considerable delays, which frustrates construction companies and owners alike.

Industry strength and the demand for additional education—safety training in particular—encouraged WCA to seek larger premises and purchase a new building at 1447 Waverley. Westland Construction Ltd. is our General Contractor on this renovation project and we are pleased with the progress. On behalf of everyone at WCA and the Construction Safety *continued on next page*



Ronald Hambley



continued from page 3 Association of Manitoba, I thank Westland's Peter Grose, Craig Hildebrandt, and Gerry Poirier, for their efforts in helping us create our new home.

In other matters, we have been engaged in a discussion with the design community about the inconsistent quality of document packages released for construction. It's a complicated issue related to high construction volumes, tight design schedules, tighter budgets, and the degree to which the design industry is stretched in the face of retirements and recruitment difficulties.

WESTLAND PERSONALITY

DARRYL BERARD



Darryl Berard

When fans are cheering for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers at a new stadium in 2012 and beyond, they won't know much about the intricacies of the infrastructure that lies beneath them... like a 24-foot high concrete overflow chamber to capture water run-off.

The chamber's walls are 16 inches thick and the concrete slab at the bottom is half a metre thick. It's not a flashy part of the new stadium, but like the man who oversaw its construction, it's essential to keeping the place running smoothly.

I like team-building so all the players can meet challenges head on...

Darryl Berard, Westland Construction's Vice-President, takes the lead on most of the company's civil projects, like the stadium chamber. He also manages major projects, like a new community centre under way in Île-des-Chênes.

"The best part about the work is the people," said Berard, who's been with the company for 10 years. "I like that feeling of working with everyone to get on the same wave length. I like team-building so all the players can

Less than complete construction documents result in expensive delays for owners. So while we move in and enjoy our new space, and the last of the construction dust settles, I offer the following advice: take the extra time up front to ensure your construction documents are as complete as possible and it will pay off in a smoother build for you and your General Contractor. 📄

Ronald Hambley is the Executive Vice-President of the Winnipeg Construction Association.

meet challenges head on and deliver the best possible end result for our clients."

Berard is all about teamwork. That focus comes from his easygoing nature and his attention to detail, all reinforced by a remarkable fastball career that started at the age of 12. He played senior fastball almost until the start of his Westland career and played in major tournaments in Fargo, Michigan, Wisconsin, and as far away as Argentina.



The overflow chamber in progress: the walls are seven metres high and 16 inches thick.

Berard learned about Westland over a decade ago from a neighbour and was immediately curious about the company. He applied to Westland enthusiastically after completing the 32-month certified engineering technologist (CET) program at Red River College. Today, he continues to work as the Chief Estimator and he spends more than half of his time as a Project Manager.

He takes great pride in the changes he's seen at Westland over the past 10 years. "Our staff has quadrupled in size," he says, "and we've become more versatile as a company. I'm very excited about the variety of projects we've been taking on." 📄

Darryl Berard is Vice-President and Partner at Westland Construction Ltd.

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Westland Construction is a full-service General Contractor serving the institutional, commercial and industrial sectors through new construction, civil support and renovations. We care about process and getting it right—for the buildings you see and the infrastructure you don't.

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