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IT'S COOL TO BE BLUE:
A CHAT WITH LCA PAST
PRESIDENTS ON THEIR
EXPERIENCES IN THE INDUSTRY

discussing ideas around construction

dirt

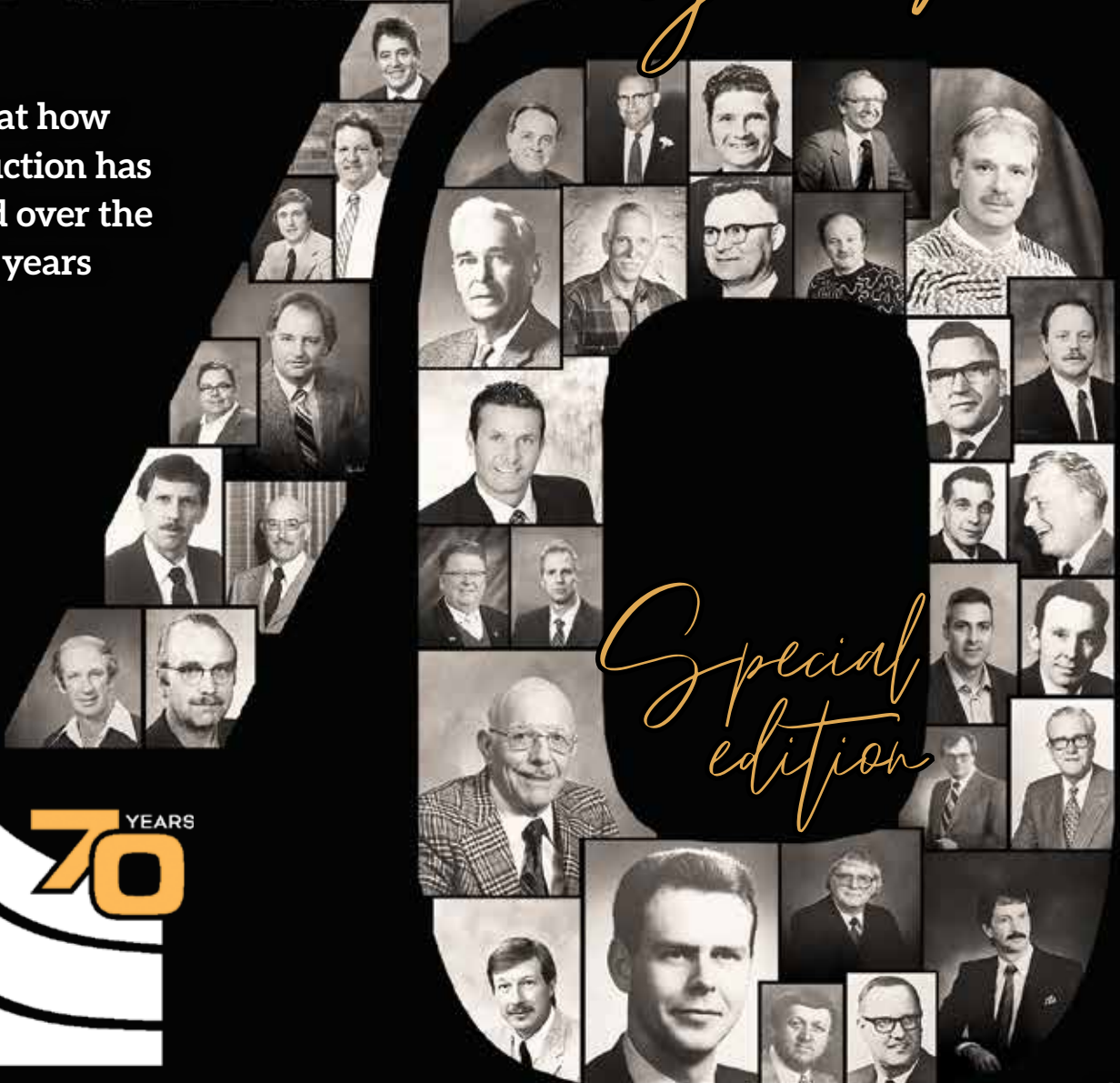
Official publication of the
Lethbridge Construction
Association
2024



Years

#108

A look at how
construction has
evolved over the
past 70 years



*Special
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A new chapter in Lethbridge

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Keep a look out for this symbol on advertisements throughout the magazine which indicates LCA member companies.



Message from the President of the LCA

EVAN BARR



"The future belongs to those who honour the past, embrace the present, and shape the future with unwavering commitment."

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA), I want to take a moment to honour and recognize all those who have come before us. Their dedication and hard work have laid the foundation upon which we stand today. It is our responsibility to continue carrying the torch, ensuring the legacy of excellence and commitment to the construction industry endures for future generations.

As I reflect on this past year, I am reminded of the numerous challenges we have faced and overcome as the construction industry. I'm also impressed by how the construction industry continues to evolve at a rapid pace. We continue to design and construct projects across Southern Alberta, demonstrating our strength and adaptability.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of the LCA. Your commitment empowers us to provide essential support through networking opportunities, ongoing education, and advocacy. You enable us to be the trusted voice and information centre for the construction industry.

Reflecting on my journey from joining the LCA board, I realize the importance of involvement. By participating in discussions, asking questions, and

collaborating with board members, government officials, and community members, we can effectively address the challenges we face. There are many ways to get involved, whether by sitting on boards or by simply voicing your concerns and participating in discussions. I encourage all our members to be involved in the LCA and to help continue making the construction industry great.

The ongoing labour shortage remains a critical topic. Fewer younger workers entering trades and an aging workforce present significant challenges. Collaboration between the LCA, BILD, the apprenticeship board, Lethbridge Polytechnic, and local school divisions is key. Initiatives like Lethbridge Polytechnic's trade industry night and Try a Trade events are vital to engaging future tradespeople. Earlier this year, the Government of Alberta announced an additional \$24 million per year investment over the next three years to create 3,200 apprenticeship seats at 11 post-secondary institutions across the province. This is great news for our local industry.

We've also seen many significant construction projects in southern Alberta that range from being in the design stage, just getting started, in full swing, or just wrapping up, which have kept

our industry busy this past year and this upcoming year. The great weather last fall allowed us to stay ahead on projects typically delayed until spring.

This past year, there have been some leadership changes within the Alberta Construction Safety Association and the Alberta Construction Association. The Alberta Construction Safety Association welcomed its new CEO, Mark Hoosein, in January 2023. He recently visited Lethbridge and met with LCA executives to discuss the ACSA's strategic plans and upcoming changes. Additionally, the Alberta Construction Association saw Ken Gibson retire as executive director after 21 years, with Warren Singh taking over in December. We look forward to working with Warren and seeing where he leads the ACA.

The LCA also continues to offer educational opportunities. We look forward to hosting in-person courses to complement our virtual learning. Watch for these in our monthly newsletters.

I am genuinely grateful to be a part of the construction community. On behalf of the LCA Board of Directors, I wish you all a safe, productive, and positive year in business. Once again, thank you for your membership and for being an integral part of the Lethbridge Construction Association. ▲

By working together with a collective and collaborative voice, we can help the construction industry.



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Message from the Executive Director of the LCA

ERIN LOW

In preparation for this 70th anniversary edition of the *DIRT* magazine, I have had the pleasure of meeting several LCA past presidents and catch up with familiar faces that I have not seen in a few years. I have heard story after story of how things used to be, how things changed, adapted, and transformed into policies and procedures we use today. We reminisced over old past president headshots, and I tried to keep up with who worked where, and where they are now. It was fascinating to connect the past with industry today. The LCA has a lot of history! Being the middleman between the LCA's past history and today's reality has given me a unique perspective on the construction industry's transformation.

Recently watching my teenager struggle to answer why it's called "WiFi", got me thinking that this younger

generation hasn't directly experienced the history needed to connect the dots of technological advances, such as a rotary phone, dial-up Internet, to WiFi and the cord-free life we are now accustomed to. As a Gen X, I am in a unique position that has experienced firsthand growing up with a landline house phone with a curly cord barely long enough to stretch into the next room so that your parents couldn't hear your conversation. I went from typing class in junior high, to our first home computer in high school with dial-up access. The evolution of the World Wide Web in my first year of college, Napster music, and 12 hours to painfully (and illegally) download movies off the Internet. Do kids today even know what buffering was while trying to watch those movies on your laptop? I have great memories of going to Blockbuster on Fridays to pick out movies for the

weekend. Getting your first cellphone and having to push each number three times for every letter trying to text a simple message to anyone. The satisfaction of closing a flip phone on someone to end a call.

Kids today will never know how we suffered through each release and improvement to get to the fast, at your finger's instant information, music, text, pictures, and movies. Need to know something? Google it. What's that song? Ask Shazam. Need to know how to do something? There is probably an app for that! We no longer rely on dusty bookshelves lined with Encyclopedia Britannica to hold all the answers to every question we have, and the thought of waiting days or weeks for snail mail to communicate with someone far away seems impossible to fathom. Thinking back, I can wonder, how did we survive? But we were living in an exciting time of constant change and advances in technology. And it was awesome. We didn't know any other way.

So, join us as we take a stroll down memory lane in this issue. Hear from resident historian Belinda Crowson as we tasked her with sharing what she feels are the top five construction projects that shaped Lethbridge. It is a great read and I appreciate her perspective. Check out our Historical Highlight Reel and see a glimpse of the many projects that shaped Lethbridge over the past 70 years. I could have included 10-times the number of pictures, but it was tough to narrow it down to only a few important ones.

Thanks for coming along for our ride down memory lane. I hope you enjoy! ▲



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PHOTO BY ROB OLSON PHOTOGRAPHY



ASK THE DIRT CREW!

Q: How has construction evolved over the past 70 years to what it is today?

By Erin Low

These past few months have been filled with nostalgia as we prepare to celebrate the LCA's 70th anniversary. We have combed through old pictures and celebrated new technological advances which have profoundly changed the commercial construction industry over the last 70 years.

In 1954, you would be hard pressed to find a pair of safety goggles and hard hats. PPE was not much of a thing back then. Blueprints were painstakingly hand drawn out, page-by-page by the project engineers. You couldn't just expect to have a few extra copies made up to have around the jobsite or run over to the LCA to make more copies. Building systems were much more simplified when it came to plumbing, electrical, and HVAC needs.

The idea of pulling miles of IT and data cable throughout the facility was unheard of. Asbestos was deemed a new highly effective and inexpensive fire-retardant material used to insulate and insulate fireproof buildings. Technology didn't exist.

But over the past 70 years, the construction industry has drastically evolved and will only continue to improve. Modern technology has allowed industry to digitally create intricate mechanical systems prior to installing a single pipe. We can adjust and review complex blueprints without printing a single page. Adjustments can be made, and cost savings found before a shovel starts digging. Software can calculate exactly how much materials you will

need to complete the work. Blueprints can be quickly and easily accessed on iPads and phones on the jobsite and shared to all employees. Safety protocols, hazard assessments, and tailgate safety meetings are no longer optional to anyone stepping foot on a jobsite.

Cordless tools make movement throughout the site easier and the quality of tools available is incredible. Building material options are limitless and meet a multitude of needs. Weatherproof, LEED, environmentally friendly, fire-retardant, lead-free paint. Intricate custom designs are limited only by what you can dream up. High-rise cranes, graders, automated lights, and computer management systems run entire facilities, which now take commercial construction to a whole new playing field.

Last but certainly not least, we're witnessing a significant rise in women entering the workforce. Over the past decade, there's been a concerted effort to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to young people and encourage women to step into the trades—an industry traditionally dominated by men. This shift has dramatically changed the landscape for the better. As the demand for skilled workers in the trades grows, the construction industry is showcasing boundless opportunities. We've made remarkable progress, and the future holds even greater potential. Where will the next 70 years lead us? ▲



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2013



2024



Congratulations to the Lethbridge Construction Association on their 70 year anniversary!



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to readers of *Discussing Ideas Around Construction* (DIRT) magazine.

Congratulations to leadership and members of the Lethbridge Construction Association as you celebrate an incredible 70 years of advocacy and progress. Alberta has one of the strongest construction sectors in Canada, and our prosperity would not be possible without your efforts to develop and maintain our homes, schools, industry and commercial facilities, roads, bridges, and more.

Our beautiful province has its groove back—people want to come here and be part of the exciting future we are building together. To support that growth, we need to ensure we have the infrastructure Albertans rely on, and I know we must continue clearing the barriers out of the way so builders can hit the ground running. So far, 2024 has been a remarkable year, particularly for housing starts, and I want to express my gratitude for all your hard work.

Thank you for your commitment to a vibrant industry and region, and to making our province one of the best places in the world to live, work, and raise a family.

Congratulations again and very best wishes for the year ahead.

Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta



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Message from the Minister of Infrastructure



THE HONOURABLE PETE GUTHRIE

Congratulations to the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA) on celebrating 70 years!

Since 1954, LCA members have demonstrated strong leadership and expertise, which has been key to the growth of our province and the construction industry, particularly in southwestern Alberta. Today, LCA members continue to be instrumental in supporting a robust economy, creating jobs, and ensuring Lethbridge and area communities have new and renewed public infrastructure.

As Minister of Infrastructure, I'm focused on ensuring public infrastructure is built to meet the needs of Albertans. In fact, over the next three years, my ministry is responsible for delivering on public infrastructure projects worth \$5.7 billion. This is about one-quarter of the Alberta government's \$25 billion 2024 Capital Plan investment into infrastructure.

We are making sure Albertans are getting high-quality schools, health facilities, and other public buildings on time and on budget. My ministry also ensures our existing facilities are well maintained and in good working condition. We cannot do this work alone; we rely on many of you as our valued and trusted industry collaborators.

In Lethbridge, our investment is funding construction of two

new schools, one school modernization and addition, and a new gym for an existing school. We are also expanding services and surgical capacity at the Chinook Regional Hospital. As part of the Alberta Surgical Initiative, construction to modernize and double existing surgical space and renovate the medical device reprocessing area is expected to be complete by the end of this year. In addition, we are in the final stage of design to renovate and expand the hospital's renal dialysis area, increasing capacity and reducing wait times for patients waiting for dialysis treatment.

Nearby in Cardston, early planning is underway to replace the Cardston Health Centre, and in Taber and Raymond, one school project in each community is underway. I am also pleased to note that the new Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary School opened its doors for up to 855 Grade 7 to 12 students to start the 2024-25 school year.

Again, we cannot do this work without you! Thank you for 70 years of partnership, trust, and hard work to help make Lethbridge and southern Alberta an amazing place to live, work, and raise a family.

I wish you all continued success and congratulations again on this tremendous achievement! ▲

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**Message from MLA Lethbridge-East,
Minister of Affordability and Utilities,
and LCA past president**



NATHAN NEUDORF

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF BUILDING LETHBRIDGE

The legacy of the Lethbridge Construction Association

As the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA) celebrates its 70th anniversary it seems like the perfect time to look back and recognize some of the significant contributions that have been made by the commercial construction industry here in Lethbridge.

Since May 6, 1954, the LCA has been committed to working together to strengthen relationships with all levels of government, educate and grow the skillsets and abilities of the construction industry, and give back to the community in a variety of ways. Construction has always been a large employer here in Lethbridge, not only building houses and buildings to support the agriculture industry, obviously a central piece of our Southern Albertan economy, but schools, churches and commercial buildings as well. For many years, local trades and subtrade contractors had to fight the idea that “major projects” expertise had to be brought in from Calgary or Edmonton. This truly began to change in the early 2000’s with the construction of some notable projects like City Hall, the joint build of the Crossings Library, Chinook High School and CCH West, the Water Tower conversion to a restaurant, numerous seniors’ residences, the Science Commons at the U of L, and the new Centre for Trades at the now Lethbridge Polytechnic, to name just a few.

The LCA has contributed significantly to the community by awarding hundreds of apprenticeship scholarships over the years. These scholarships have helped many young women and men advance their skills and training, thereby deepening knowledge, embracing new technologies, and stabilizing the economy with a broad and diverse workforce. In collaboration with both public and separate school divisions, as well as

Lethbridge Polytechnic, Lethbridge and Southern Alberta can proudly boast some of the highest numbers of apprentices and Registered Apprentice Program (RAP) high school students in the province—not just per capita, but in total numbers, often surpassing even Calgary.

Some data from the past few years that highlights the growth and strength of construction in Lethbridge shows that construction is the fourth largest employer with 6,700 jobs in the field in 2023. It was also the second largest growth per sector, adding 1,300 jobs from 2022-2023 just behind manufacturing, which added 1,600 jobs. For some time now, construction has averaged roughly 10 per cent of the total workforce in Lethbridge, showing its size and strength, as well as its relative stability within our local economy. Construction and all related jobs, including wholesale and supply, are a crucial part of our diverse economy. The strong growth in this sector should be a source of pride for the LCA and all of Southern Alberta.

As the MLA for Lethbridge-East, it is a tremendous honour to represent the industry I came from, having worked in construction as an apprentice, red seal carpenter, project manager, and business owner for nearly 30 years. Supporting initiatives that build recognition for the parity of esteem of trades as equivalent to many post-secondary degree programs is vital to the continued growth of our province and economy, and I am proud to be part of a government that does this work. So, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, congratulations to the LCA and its many members, associate members, partners, founders, trades, subtrades, and supporting businesses for their incredible contributions over the past 70 years! ▲



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Message from the Mayor of Lethbridge



BLAINE HYGGEN

On behalf of Lethbridge City Council, let me begin by wishing the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA), all members past and present, a very happy 70th anniversary! What a wonderful achievement.

Congratulations and kudos for the legacy you have had in our amazing city and for the great work that continues today and into the future.

Our Council and City Administration continue to work for you to help build and maintain a thriving construction industry and business community in the city. In 2023, the total construction value in Lethbridge was \$287.9 million and there were 1,328 development permits approved.

I want to use this space to clear up a few narratives we often hear, such as “Council is anti-business”, or “this city has the highest taxes in Alberta”, or “it takes so long to get permits in Lethbridge”.

The average time for development permit approval in Lethbridge in 2023 was six days, which is among the quickest turnaround time of municipalities in Alberta. The days to approve is defined from the time adequate documentation is received from the development officer until a decision is issued.

Nearly 31 per cent of permits were approved on the same day, with 32.2 per cent within one to three days, 25.5 per cent within four to 10 days, 6.4 per cent within 11 to 25 days, and only five per cent at more than 25 days.

Of course, we acknowledge there is always room to improve supports for businesses, whether it's in the form of access

or grant opportunities. Last October, Council supported my motion for City Administration to draft a program with a comprehensive, fair, consistent, and broad approach of all incentives for new development or businesses, as well as revitalization, redevelopment, or expansion of existing development or businesses in Lethbridge designed to provide a long-term benefit to the community by creating economic stimulus and support investment.

Council is committed to encouraging and attracting new development and businesses, including new construction, business revitalization, redevelopment, or expansion to Lethbridge to promote investment for the general benefit of the municipality.

Earlier this year, Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL), the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) released the 2023 Brighter Together Survey showcasing the top locational strengths and challenges expressed by businesses. Optimism among local businesses and organizations remains high, as two-thirds of respondents expressed a favourable outlook for the next six to 12 months.

Some highlights from the City's perspective are that our utility costs for water, sewer, garbage collection and recycling are among the lowest in Alberta, while our commercial electricity rates are competitive with most other municipalities in the province. Our municipal property tax per capita is in the middle of the pack among Alberta municipalities. It is slightly higher than Calgary and Red Deer, and it is slightly lower than St. Albert and Edmonton.

This is important information to digest and to promote a more positive narrative for our community. Residents can also stay informed and engaged with all City of Lethbridge news by subscribing to receive News Releases, Public Service Announcements and Our Stories directly to their inboxes. Subscribing is as easy as heading to lethbridge.ca/subscribe and following the prompts.

As our city continues to grow, we together will continue build a brighter future for Lethbridge. We look forward to having the Lethbridge Construction Association as a partner for the next 70 years and beyond as well. ▲



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CANADA'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RALLIES FOR REFORM



By Rodrigue Gilbert, CCA President

With an ongoing national housing crisis, the government's prioritization of a low-carbon economy and mounting workforce shortage, Canada's construction industry is in the spotlight.

Representing 18,000+ member firms, the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) is capitalizing on the political attention to advocate for strategic investment and policies that will support rather than hinder our efforts to build a stronger Canada.

Building beyond housing: CCA's advocacy push

While Canada's Housing Plan formed the centrepiece of the 2024 Federal Budget, the industry was left disappointed by several significant missed opportunities, including:

- Next steps for the National Infrastructure Assessment
 - Investment in corresponding infrastructure for every new home built
 - A long-term plan to fill the gap in our trade-enabling infrastructure
 - Modernization of procurement strategies to support shared risk
 - Meaningful collaboration with provinces, municipalities, and industry
- Estimates indicate that each new housing unit requires up to \$107,000 in public infrastructure investment, thus a significant additional investment is needed to build, support, and connect these homes to essential housing-enabling infrastructure. This represents a major shortfall in investment. Canada's existing, not to mention aging,

infrastructure is not prepared for the additional stress.

We voiced these concerns at our Meech Lake meeting in May. This meeting is a chance for industry experts from across Canada to connect with senior federal government officials to discuss critical issues affecting the industry. The second of these biannual meetings is scheduled for the fall and will provide another touchpoint ahead of the CCA's annual Hill Day in November.

Awareness to action: Construction's progress on net-zero objectives

The CCA will be releasing an update to our 2021 *Strength, resilience, sustainability* white paper in September. This broader report will highlight the progress made by industry, explore the linkages between climate risk and infrastructure decisions, and discuss the path forward in confronting the climate crisis. It will also serve as a springboard for discussions with government on the need for greater investment and supportive policies to not only achieve net-zero objectives, but also protect Canadians and the infrastructure they depend on daily from the escalating threats of extreme climate events.

CCA's Q4 *ICIC Construction Sector Quarterly Insights Report* observed that the industry is making significant gains in sustainability practices. Despite its history as a contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the sector is



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swiftly embracing measures to curb its environmental impact. There has been a notable decrease in emissions intensity across various infrastructure assets, and investments in clean technologies and materials are rising.

Rebuilding Canada's construction workforce

With an estimated 265,000 set to retire in the next decade and growing construction demands, there is a real need to partner with the federal government on workforce development strategies. While progress has been made, there's still much work to be done.

We achieved some headway with the federal government on rebuilding Canada's workforce through immigration reform. Immigration targets were increased, and a new process was announced under the Express Entry program to welcome skilled newcomers with work experience in occupations considered a priority in Canada, including construction.

However, ongoing dialogue will continue as the government needs to create a more supportive environment to alleviate the labour choke points – this includes changing an outdated immigration point system and working with provinces to ensure better skills matching.

Simplifying contracts and guides

The CCA is striving to make contract management simpler and more transparent for our members with our new contract management platform, Signalur. Signalur offers secure, digital CCA and CCDC contracts through our integrated partner associations. Many of our integrated partner associations have had a briefing on the service and are at various stages of adoption and launch.

A series of new CCA and CCDC documents have also been published and are now available for purchase

though the CCA's integrated partner associations. A special thank you to the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA) for hosting a CCDC Seminar, our first in-person seminar since the pandemic. These seminars provided a unique opportunity to delve into new contracts and guides with the document authors who provided detailed explanations and demonstrated their use in practice.

Stay in touch!

As we celebrate 70 years of the Lethbridge Construction Association's contribution to our industry, the CCA remains committed to fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and amplifying your voice in Ottawa.

Stay in the loop by subscribing to the CCA's newsletter at bit.ly/ccasubscribe, by following @ConstructionCAN on Twitter, or by looking up the Canadian Construction Association on LinkedIn. ▲



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Message from the Alberta Construction Association

WARREN SINGH

The Alberta Construction Association

(ACA) would like to congratulate our partners at the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA) who are celebrating 70 years of service this year. It is an amazing milestone and we are excited to continue to work with you for many more years to come.

Our advocacy efforts have been with our members in mind. The concerns brought to us continue to sit at the forefront of a lot of conversations with government in committees, stakeholder meetings, and one-on-one meetings between our executive and MLAs as we continue to meet with them on issues.

Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act (PPCLA) amendments

On August 29th, 2024, the PPCLA came into full force and all projects in the province will come under this law. The Act has only pertained to projects after legislation was passed in August 2022. Since then, the ACA has heard that there is still work to be done. One key concern to address is applying it equally to all owners, including the Government of Alberta. It was with this in mind that we continue to urge the government to work with industry on the following:

- Complete the work started with industry to ensure the same prompt pay provisions, including adjudication of disputes, apply to Government of Alberta projects covered by the Public Works Act. Existing Alberta Infrastructure contractual provisions do not extend protection down the contractual chain.

- Address non-compliance under the current PPCLA by meeting with industry to understand the current situation. For example, government could work with industry to build awareness through mandatory notifications, potentially issued along with development and building permits.
- The ACA requested an industry/government working group explore options to reduce non-compliance. Currently under the PPCLA, contractors that dispute payment risk damaging ongoing business relationships with the other contracting party, and thereby, run the risk of losing future business.

We have met with Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Infrastructure, and Transportation and Economic Corridors ministry representatives in April to discuss our concerns. They have been open to the discussion and have developed a few sessions with stakeholders. Through the winter and spring, the government PPCLA working group began to meet to discuss the desire by industry to see the legislation work better for contractors. Government presented frameworks for amendments and the focus of meeting.

At this point, the ACA is cautiously optimistic that the Government of Alberta will be bringing forward legislation soon to address our concerns. Stay tuned.

Contract Modernization Orientation

Contract modernization has been a key ingredient to creating stable and better reliability in agreements between contractors and owners. In 2023, the ACA

and other stakeholders brought forward our concerns through the Industry Liaison Committee (made up of Alberta Infrastructure and construction industry representatives) around the issue of contract modernization.

Overall, industry concerns do remain with the risk allocation and feel that the government is still putting much of the burden on industry. It does not mean that they had not made any positive changes. Incorporating a dispute resolution mechanism, as well as a provision for cost escalation are examples of positive measures being taken to address industry concerns.

However, there are issues with recent construction management contracts. With examples such as no limit of liability for indemnity claims or overall liability, the province remaining exempt from prompt payment, extremely limited *force majeure* relief, and other gaps for relief events, the construction industry feels there is a lot more work to be done on these new contracts.

The ACA, along with partner local associations, will be calling on the government to revisit some of these clauses to address real concerns with the modernized contracts. We look to continue our collaborative approach with government to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Stay tuned to our social media posts for more information and feel free to message us at info@albertaconstruction.net if you would like to pass along your thoughts on the new contracts. ▲



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their reputation among clients as a company that hires the best and brightest. Achieving recognition as a Gold Seal Employer can bolster a company's reputation for quality and professionalism. Clients are seeking assurance that competent and reliable professionals will be managing their projects, and GSC is essential in providing this assurance. As an industry that relies upon building trust, having a Gold Seal Certified team builds credibility among partners and stakeholders.

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This acknowledgment from the Canadian Construction Association reinforces our dedication and commitment to excellence in all facets of our operations."

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A SAFETY CULTURE IS A TWO-WAY STREET AND THE ACSA IS CHARTING A NEW COURSE

The ACSA's five-year plan prioritizes member and industry feedback and expertise



Mark Hoosein, ACSA CEO

Safety is a collective effort, and in construction—a critical, yet high-risk industry—it's at the core of everything we do.

The Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA) is a uniquely member-centric, industry-funded not-for-profit organization and the largest certifying partner in Alberta. Its role is to drive safety and business excellence by supporting its more than 56,000 member companies to keep Alberta's over 230,000 construction workers safe.

Last year marked a significant milestone for the ACSA. The board and administration took a moment to reflect and reassess its vision, mission, and core values to better align with the evolving needs of its members and the industry. In 2023 – Mark Hoosein's first year as the ACSA's chief executive officer (CEO) – he

met with members, staff, partners, the board, and other stakeholders to listen and learn.

"At our board retreat we identified gaps in member support and oversight. The new plan actively addresses these gaps and improvements," says Francis Rankin, ACSA board member and director of operations with Lethbridge & District Exhibition. "This candid recognition is a testament to the ACSA's dedication to transparency and growth."

Hoosein adds that their strategic plan is more than just setting goals. It's about creating a safer, more supportive environment for their members, partners, and employees.

The result of these efforts is the ACSA's Five-Year Strategic Plan, which the organization is currently in its first year of delivering. Key focus areas include

simplifying access to resources and training, using a member-first approach, and supporting safety and business excellence.

"ACSA's new vision is a renewed commitment to integrating safety into all construction endeavours, ensuring it is as foundational as the structures we build," says Joe Sparks, ACSA and Calgary Construction Association board member.

Bolstering member support – Programs for employers of all sizes

The ACSA's flagship program, Certificate of Recognition (COR), has a 35-year legacy in Alberta for supporting continuous industry improvement. There is also a counterpart for smaller employers called SECOR.

This year, the ACSA will leverage

Continued on following page...

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- Intentional innovations

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- Bolster organizational excellence

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industry expertise to continuously improve member satisfaction by launching an industry engagement and consultation project to modernize the COR/SECOR certification program.

"We need a COR program that offers added value and incentives for employers of all sizes to pursue," says Hoosein.

"Although Alberta leads in certifications, many employers still haven't taken advantage of this valuable certification."

The first engagement and consultation activity will happen at the ACSA 2024 Conference on November 6 and 7 at the River Cree Resort in Edmonton. This year's theme, Safety Foundations: Constructing a Culture of Excellence, builds on foundational safety and continues their pursuit of safety and business excellence. Registration is now open. Learn more about the conference and purchase your tickets by visiting youracsa.ca/conference.



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The ACSA has also held webinars like those on SECOR and COR Action Plans to help members understand and implement suggestions for improvements from their previous audits and safety objectives that may be outside their regular audit scope. Coming this September is ACSA's new MyAudit tool that will make auditing easier, no matter where you are. Better yet, using MyAudit is free with ACSA membership.

The ACSA also expanded program access, including in-person safety classes at the Calgary Construction Association and the ability for members to request ACSA in-person training at their workplaces, called Instruction by Request (IBR). New virtual training and the online proctoring for the National Health and Safety Administrator (NHSA) and National Construction Safety Officer (NCSO) designations enable members to complete training and exams from anywhere, enhancing accessibility and reducing travel for out-of-province participants.

Top-down, bottom-up approach

Safety culture is a two-way street, requiring both top-down and bottom-up approaches to be effective. The top-down approach ensures strong leadership, clear direction, and communication with members and stakeholders. Meanwhile, the bottom-up approach engages members, enabling them to provide insights and feedback. The ACSA can continuously improve stakeholder satisfaction with services, programs, and products by fostering a people-first culture. These approaches ensure everyone is engaged, from leadership to front-line employees, partners, and the broader community.

The top-down, bottom-up strategy focuses on adapting to new challenges and opportunities based on membership and industry needs. It maintains a

member-centric focus to continuously improve member satisfaction, and leverages industry expertise and intentional innovation to balance the association's needs with those of its members and communities.

Looking ahead, the ACSA remains committed to continuous improvement. Future initiatives will build on the current strategic plan, with a focus on member

engagement and leveraging industry expertise.

"Our journey is ongoing, and we are dedicated to evolving and enhancing our support for the construction industry," Hoosein affirms.

If you're in the construction industry, email info@youracsa.ca to see how the ACSA can help, or visit youracsa.ca for more information on programs and services. ▲



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BUILDING OUR CITY AND REGION TO MEET GLOBAL DEMANDS



West Coulee Station Elementary School, being built by Ward Bros. Construction, will be completed by September 2025. The new K-5 school will have space for 600 students once completed.

By Trevor Lewington, CEO, Economic Development Lethbridge

When you're talking about construction and the role it can play in strengthening the local economy, there are a few buzz words that come to mind. Commercial, residential, infrastructure, storage, expansion... are just a few of these words. The one word I would use most, however, is vital!

Having a vibrant, well-trained, and experienced construction sector is vital to the expansion and growth of any municipality. The saying "If you build it, they will come" isn't just from a Kevin Costner movie, it's a blueprint for success here in Lethbridge and Southern Alberta.

Some of the projects currently

underway include the expansion on the McCain Foods' french fry production plant in Lethbridge County, which when completed, will see the size and production of the facility almost doubled. As a result of this expansion and the need for a cold storage facility, NewCold announced earlier this year a \$222-million investment in Coaldale to build a cold storage facility to house McCain products, with room for expansion in future years. The state-of-the-art facility will create over 50 new jobs in the heart of Canada's premier food corridor once completed in 2026, and construction on the warehouse, which is already underway, added 200

jobs in the construction sector.

Warehousing and storage facilities are just part of the playbook when it comes to economic development in our region. Logistics plays a huge role in moving product from point A to point B and construction projects regarding infrastructure and logistics can also help a region prosper. Forty-six kilometres of Highway 3 from Taber to Burdett are being twinned beginning this summer. This stretch is the first phase in a project that will eventually see the entire stretch of road from Lethbridge to Medicine Hat along the highway expand from two to four lanes.

On the residential side of things,

Continued on following page...



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housing starts for Q1 in 2024 were up compared to the 2023 number, and 98 of the total 138 housing starts in Q1 of this year can be attributed to multi-unit dwellings. As we look to welcome new residents to our community via inter-provincial migration, international immigration initiatives, as well as both attracting and retaining post-secondary students, building housing for new members of the community plays an important part in economic development.

Last year, Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL) was approved by the provincial government's Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) as a location that can administer the Rural Renewal Stream. We work with employers in the construction sector to set them up to be able to offer international students, temporary workers, and other non-resident employees with a pathway to their permanent residency.

Although monthly employment numbers in the construction industry

ebb and flow, in April of this year there were 8,800 people working locally in the construction sector, a jump of 4,000 individuals compared to April of 2023.

EDL works hard with local developers, investors, and organizations like the Lethbridge Construction Association to offer tools and resources to maintain a healthy construction sector in the Lethbridge region. For more information, we encourage you to visit our website at www.chooselethbridge.ca. Let us know how we can be of service. ▲



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have been excellent on multiple projects we have worked with this year. They're always willing to adjust to schedules and changes on a project. This is much appreciated.

Vidmar Contracting – it has been great working together this past year. It is good to see hard work and dedication from young employees.

Caliber Landscaping crew always working hard and bringing their best. Your great work ethic shows!

To **Shunda Consulting and Construction Management**, their crews are great to deal with on challenging jobs.

To the **Zero Gravity Team**, time and time again, they go the extra mile to schedule or reschedule their crews to accommodate our needs. They are a huge asset to us and our team.

To **Titan Masonry** for being very cooperative, flexible and helping others out where they can. Working together instead of against each other just makes things easier and smoother.



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Brock Virtue from **Top House Roofing** is always very accommodating & helpful in providing advice and support for our solar installations, ensuring the integrity of our customers' roofs remains intact.

Shout out to **Airtech's Rick King**. During his time with Airtech it was great working together. All the best in the next years!

To **Simpson Plumbing**, whether with budget or schedule, Justin and Colin always provide accurate and solid information, which helps us, and our clients make informed decisions.

Shout out to **DMT Business Group**. This company consistently shows up to support other businesses within this construction industry. This commitment to their relationships is second to none. We appreciate doing business with them.



LCA Highlight Reel

We are proud to be able to show off all of the great work that our members accomplish every year. Check out some of the fantastic projects that our members have been working on this past year.



Advantage Financial Lethbridge.
Photo courtesy of Cabinet Expressions.



Custom Residential, Lethbridge County.
Photo courtesy of Cabinet Expressions.



Slot drain in Amundsen Park in Claresholm.
Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Bicycle lanes
in Lethbridge.
Delineators and two
tactile plates.
*Photo courtesy of
CT Distributors Inc.*



Galt Gardens in Lethbridge.
Photos courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.





Trench drain in Janam Farms in
Diamond City, AB.

Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Picture Butte Fire Department.
Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Poly Trench Drain in Taber, AB.

Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Park benches in Prairie Tabernacle Three Hills, AB.

Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Pool trench drain in Sparwood
Aquatic Centre in Sparwood, BC.

***Photo courtesy of
CT Distributors Inc.***



Trench drain in Sunbelt Rentals,
Lethbridge.

***Photo courtesy of
CT Distributors Inc.***



Trench drain in Superform Warehouse,
Pincher Creek, AB.

Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Trench drain and two tactile plates at transit stop in Lethbridge.

Photo courtesy of CT Distributors Inc.



Box culvert backfill.

Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Box culvert placement.

Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Coulee spillway haul road building.

Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Horseshy canal structures.

Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Coulee spillway winter work.

Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Taber wetland complete.
Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Taber wetland weir.
Photo courtesy of deGraaf Excavating Ltd.



Chinook Feeders in Nanton, AB.
Photo courtesy of Dennis Dirtworx Ltd.



Developments in Coaldale.
Photo courtesy of Dennis Dirtworx Ltd.



Goldridge Farming in Turin, AB.
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Lethbridge Hotel demolition in Lethbridge.
Photo courtesy of Dennis Dirtworx Ltd.



Robbin - LNID Canal.

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Schooten feedlot in Mossleigh, AB.

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SMRID - Chin Chute in Chin, AB.

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498 41st S for Shift Real Estate Investments.

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3510 5th Avenue N for Shift Real Estate Investments.

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Buffalo Grace Manor in Lethbridge.

Photo courtesy of FWBA Architects.



Prairie Sky School in Calgary.

Photo courtesy of FWBA Architects.



Red Deer Recovery Community.
Photo courtesy of FWBA Architects.



West Coulee Station Elementary School in Lethbridge.
Photo courtesy of FWBA Architects.



Gravel placement for wind turbine laydown.
Photo courtesy of McNally Contractors (2011) Ltd.



Excavation of wetland on the Town of Coalhurst Main
Constructed Wetlands.
Photo courtesy of McNally Contractors (2011) Ltd.



Coaldale Recreation Centre.
Photos courtesy of KB Heating & AC Ltd.





Gravel placement for wind turbine laydown.
Photo courtesy of McNally Contractors (2011) Ltd.



Large diameter gravel road bridge culvert installation for drainage canal.
Photo courtesy of McNally Contractors (2011) Ltd.



College Ford.
Photos courtesy of Millwork Innovations.



Lakeview Dental.
Photo courtesy of Millwork Innovations.



Wellington-Altus.
Photos courtesy of Silver Ridge Construction.



Abbey Road, Phase 1.
Photo courtesy of Silver Ridge Construction



KFC Coaldale.
Photo courtesy of Silver Ridge Construction.



Legacy H Base Building - Marble Slab in Lethbridge.
Photo courtesy of Silver Ridge Construction.



Subway in Coaldale.
Photos courtesy of Silver Ridge Construction.





Toyota dealership in Lethbridge.
Photos courtesy of Silver Ridge Construction.



Blanco Cantina.
Photos courtesy of Southwest Design & Construction.



College Ford Lincoln.
Photo courtesy of Southwest Design & Construction.



Eastside Gas King.
Photos courtesy of Southwest Design & Construction.



Piikani Fire Hall.
Photos courtesy of Southwest Design & Construction.



Savers Liquor.
Photos courtesy of Southwest Design & Construction.





Freshwater Pond for Kolk Farms Ltd.

Photo courtesy of Sub-Terrain Excavating & Trucking Ltd.



WheatCrest Solar Farm.

Photo courtesy of Sub-Terrain Excavating & Trucking Ltd.



Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District, Picture Butte Reservoir Diversion Channel.

Photo courtesy of Sub-Terrain Excavating & Trucking Ltd.



Agri-Food Hub & Trade Centre.

Photos courtesy of Ward Bros. Construction Ltd.





Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary & Shift
Community Recreation Centre.
Photos courtesy of Ward Bros. Construction Ltd.



Solutions for Milk River & Erle Rivers Schools.
Photos courtesy of Ward Bros. Construction Ltd.



Timber Tech office expansion.
*Photos courtesy of Ward Bros.
Construction Ltd.*



West Coulee Station Elementary School.
Photos courtesy of Ward Bros. Construction Ltd.



Cranbrook Toyota.

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Eldorado RV.

Photo courtesy of Westco Construction Ltd.



Grassy Lake Potato Company.

Photos courtesy of Westco Construction Ltd.

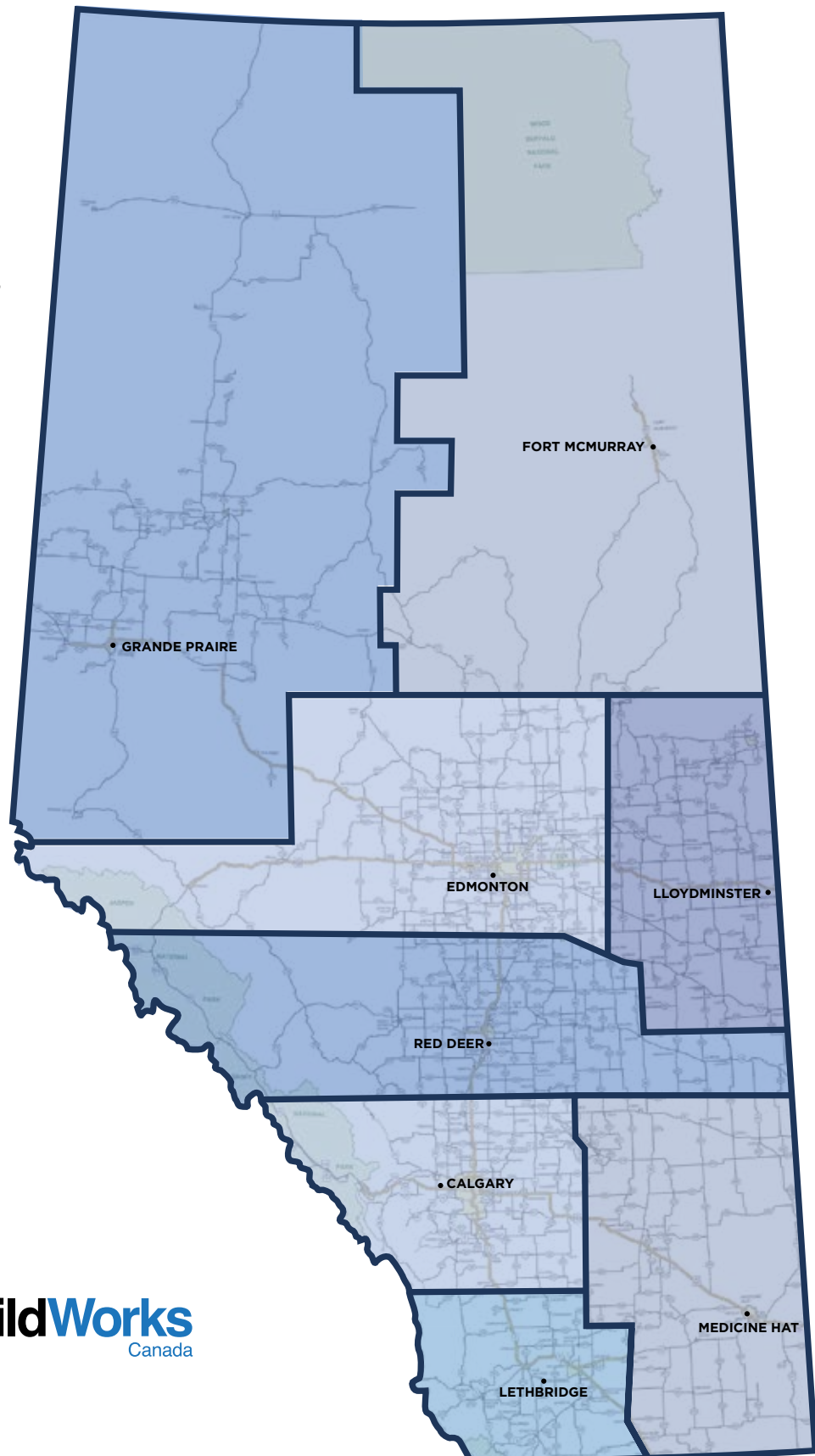


Structural Truss Forma Steel.

Photos courtesy of Westco Construction Ltd.

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The Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA) is one of eight regions in Alberta. The LCA region proudly serves Southwest Alberta south to the U.S. border, west to the B.C. border, north to Nanton, and east to Taber.





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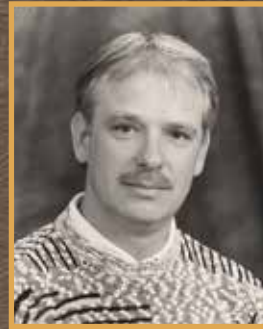


Top left, counterclockwise: Lyal Sakamoto, Blayne Janssens, Darren Guenther, Evan Barr, Richard Thiessen, Ken Piecharka, Rob Coleman, Bruce Gillett, and Colin Ward.

PHOTO BY ROB OLSON PHOTOGRAPHY

IT'S COOL TO BE BLUE

We asked some of our LCA past presidents three questions about their time on the LCA Board of Directors and experiences in the industry. Here is what they had to say.



BRUCE GILLETT
LCA president
1997-1998

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

Our very first contract was designing and building the live shelter addition on the south end of the Lilydale building in 1984. This opened the door to numerous contracts with the Lilydale Corporation which was instrumental in us establishing ourselves as a reputable commercial contractor.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

The biggest change in my opinion is the way contract documents (construction drawings mostly) are prepared and distributed. Massive files containing dozens of drawings can be delivered from the architect to the contractor in a matter of seconds, and usually just a single copy.

Thirty years ago, architects would print dozens of huge drawing sets to be distributed to bidders, and then after the tender closed, several more to the successful contractor. The process was expensive and took a lot of time.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

So many of the projects now are delivered by construction management and the drawings are often a work in progress throughout the duration of the project. I miss the days when a full and complete set of detailed drawings were available for general contractors to bid with on for most, if not all projects.



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ROD WYTON

*LCA president
2003-2004*

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I helped create the LCA Apprentice Scholarship Awards Program. I was also a part of the Link Building at the University of Lethbridge, which was the first time that a building of that size had stayed with a local general contractor and I remember EllisDon and KB Heating were on that one. I was also the mechanical superintendent for the fifth wing at Chinook Regional Hospital in 2010-ish to 2018 with Botting & Associates. Finally, I was the mechanical superintendent for the St. Theresa of Calcutta School and my middle son taught there for 10 years after it was built.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

How automated it got and what a positive thing all the AI is. As well, all the equipment is now used instead of labour, zoom booms, etc. We have to keep innovating to keep progress moving forward.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I am not really anyone who missed much about the old days. I miss the people and the really powerful friendships I had, but don't miss work. You are only going to miss the people you had great relationships with, not the people you don't like. Enjoy what you are doing now.



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KEN PIECHARKA

*LCA president
1995-1996*

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

During my term as president of the LCA, the construction industry was in a downturn and there were very few projects to bid on. The LCA had less than 60 members and money was tight. To increase revenue, the LCA purchased a large printer to print blueprints for our members and non-members. It proved to be a good investment and provided a much-needed revenue source for the LCA.

The LCA also hired new executive director Lorrie Vos to replace Jan Barrett who had been the LCA executive director for 12 years. Jan had recruited me to the board of the LCA in 1992.

The biggest project our company completed over this time was the new Lethbridge Police Station, we were very grateful to have the project during the downturn.

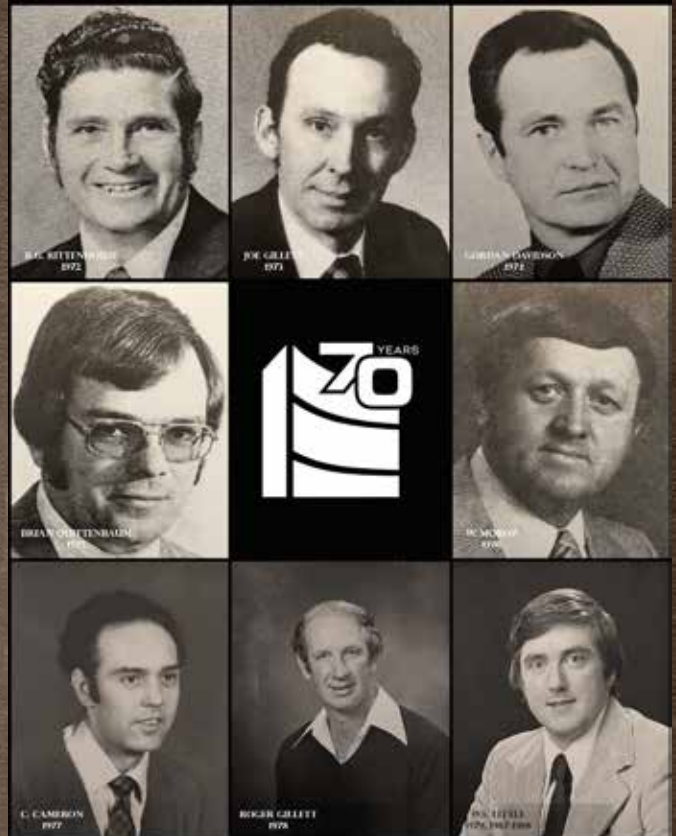
I found my years on the LCA board and two years as president very rewarding and educational. I would recommend all LCA members have someone from their company or business serve on the board of the Lethbridge Construction Association.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

The industry has changed a lot since I was president of the LCA from 1995 to 1996. I think the construction industry was more personable with less regulations and documentation than there is now. I am not sure if all the new regulations are helping the industry or have just taken some of the personal relationships and fun out of the construction industry!

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I do miss the personal relationships I had with people in the industry including owners, architects, general contractors, other subtrades, and suppliers. Maybe construction is still much the same as it was but it does look and feel different from the outside looking in. Enjoy the ride, the construction industry is something to be proud of!





NATHAN NEUDORF

*LCA president
2015-2016*

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

My largest accomplishment was having the LCA support the new Lethbridge Polytechnic Trades Building with a \$100,000 donation from our building fund, securing the future of trades apprenticeship training in Southern Alberta for generations.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

I think the biggest change is the general attitude, acceptance, and recognition of women in the construction trades. I am very proud to be the president that brought Theresa Yauck and Hayley Feyter on to the board, the very first women to ever serve and bring a tremendous broader perspective to the LCA.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I miss some of the casual and effective conversations when meetings were followed by beer and pizza – less formal, less structured, but often highly effective for getting to the “root of the issue”.



BLAYNE JANSSENS

LCA president 2009-2010

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I would like to say that my biggest accomplishment would be growing the capacity of the trade partners for our community and being involved in many amazing design-build projects in our city. Along the way I have created some lifelong friendships and partnerships that mean more than our paycheck at the end of the day.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

Some of the biggest changes in our industry include the emerging technologies both in the office and the field along

with advancements in the equipment and products that we have to work with today. It is rewarding to see the opportunities that the construction industry has brought to the next generation.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I think our industry is in a good place but not without some challenges that we can all work together to overcome. The industry is different today than it was 20 or so years ago and there are things I miss; however, it is also a very different time and those changes have been necessary in order to keep up with the needs of today's world. My hope would be that we could slow down a little, not rush through every day, and take time to appreciate and reflect on all our accomplishments.



NEIL NUNWEILER

*LCA president
2011-2012*

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I was a new partner in DMT Lamb Weston as it was being built. I was the project manager on the site with a crew of over 100 and over \$6 million in 1998. The project was a success and was the largest project in the company's history. It also had many years of maintenance year after year.

A big achievement in my career was becoming the president of DMT, growing and expanding the business, and being able to sell it off to employees who were part of the business.

Another big accomplishment is taking many green workers and getting them their trade ticket and continue to work in the trades and make a living.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

I think the biggest change is technology, site documents for safety (which is a great thing), online FTP site for drawings and communication, and also the pay rate has increased. If you want \$40 an hour then stop working with an \$18 an hour work ethic.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I don't miss a lot, as I believe the technology is better and easier to get information and communicate. I do miss the fact that we now pamper workers instead of being upfront and blunt about expectations.



***The LCA would like to also recognize the following
previous executive directors:***

Roger Henistrom (the first LCA office manager)

Gerald Waldren

Jan Barrett

Lorrie Vos – 1996-2013

Gord Klassen – 2013-2014

Erin Low – 2014- Present



LYAL SAKAMOTO
LCA president in 1989

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I've completed literally hundreds of projects over the past 55 years of all different shapes, sizes, and forms, so it would be difficult to pick one favourite project out of the bunch. I would say the relationships and friendships with clients, trades, and suppliers that I have developed over the years would be the biggest and most important accomplishments.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

The biggest change definitely has to be the transformation of technology and major technological advancements in the industry. Other changes would be the different materials used, i.e. 30 to 40 years ago asbestos was commonly used, now we don't use it anymore. PCB's were common in electrical transformers, now no PCB's, same with lead paint and so on. Safety and better safety equipment also play a more important role in the industry now. The Alberta Construction Association was instrumental in setting up the ACSA years ago, but that's a whole other story.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I miss the Alberta Bid Depository, which was later changed to ACTS, as well as visiting the LCA plan rooms and picking up and returning plans and specs for the different projects. I was also on the ACA education committee and the ACA was promoting the trades, so we went to a number of schools and met numerous teachers and students, which I found was quite interesting.



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COLIN WARD

LCA president 2007-2008

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

Growing the image and the voice of the LCA throughout the community. This wasn't something I did, but rather an objective of the board around the time I was president, which I decided to focus on and continues today. As the role of the LCA changes, from a plans room to more of an advocacy voice, getting the community to better understand who we are and what we represent is a great accomplishment the board has achieved and brings value to the over 200 member companies we represent.

What is the biggest change to the industry you've noticed?

The first is technology. Whether it's on the site or in the office, the use of technology has changed how the industry works.

Two simple examples from the site and the office are estimating and tender submittals, as bid are all received electronically now, there are no more faxes and very rarely do you deliver your bid in person, but rather submit it electrically. Drawings and layout are also different, as some of the building designs, curves, angles, etc. have gotten so complicated, the crew on-site needs to do their layout from the buildings digital model and not the drawings. Our site superintendent and project manager need to have the technology and expertise to help with that.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

Yes, things are different, but to me the best part of construction was getting a great team of owners, consultants, and contractors together to build something amazing and that is still the same. I like showing up in the morning and getting to work with great people. With that being said, I do miss working with old friends who have moved on or retired.



DARREN GUENTHER

LCA president 2021-2022

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I would say the hardest thing I've done to date is getting my engineering degree. I somehow made it through school and even though I don't use what I learned in school in my current role, it did give me the confidence to take on new challenges, both personally and professionally.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

I haven't been around the industry long enough to notice

any large changes in the past 20+ years, but I would love to experience a large building project from design to construction completion without modern technology. No emails, text messaging, or virtual meetings, just manual drafting, phone calls, and in-person meetings.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I miss in-person tender closes. There may be the odd time this still happens, but most owners appear to be changing to online submittals. I miss sitting in the truck in the parking lot and filling out the bid form as the clock ticks toward 2 p.m., feeling the nervous energy in the room as everyone's number is read out loud and seeing the reactions (good and bad!). This is something that people new to the industry should experience.



RICHARD THIESSEN *LCA president 2019-2020*

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

For me personally, it's business and the team I have built. We have many employees that are coming up to their 20th anniversary with SRC. We have a tenure of over 12 years at SRC. I have enjoyed building a team that has flourished and developed over time.

For the LCA, I have seen the board adapt to new market landscapes. They are willing to ask the question, "what purpose do we serve in the industry and what value do we add to our members?"

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

The first is technology. Building systems are slowly changing, but design, estimating, tendering etc. are all changing rapidly.

The second is manpower as across the board there is a shortage of qualified tradespeople. There will be a large group of qualified tradespeople retiring in the next 10 years, which will be a big challenge for the industry.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

Nothing comes to mind.



NORBERT BOHNERT *LCA president 1991-1992*

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I have worked on many different types of projects over the last 43 years, both as a partner in a family-run precast concrete business, and my structural engineering consulting firm. I have done numerous projects related to the precast work and also other structural design projects that came my way.

I would say that my biggest accomplishment was my starting project once I graduated from university and became involved in the industry. That project was one I undertook from the ground up and it was the West Village Mall complex on the west side of Lethbridge. There were many others that followed, but two projects that stick out in my mind are the University of Lethbridge Faculty of Fine Arts wing, as well as the LCC gymnasium on campus.

Every project created new challenges and working on so many different types of buildings all over the province always kept the work interesting and refreshing as no two projects were ever the same. It was gratifying to be able to tackle the many issues and resolve them as they came about.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

There has been a drastic change over the many years in many aspects of how projects were managed, as well as the ability and

diversification of what technology has allowed us to do, some good and maybe at times, some not so good.

The industry is very fast paced, and the challenge basically becomes keeping current on the technology there is out there while still maintaining the most efficient cost-effective method of completing a project on time, and of course still being able to make a reasonable profit. The communication resources available to all in the industry have changed tenfold and sometimes that was a good thing, but also many times created issues that were possibly not foreseeable and presented a challenge in favourably dealing with the situation at hand.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

I believe that interpersonal communication and interaction among project team members have significantly declined. As a result, personal engagement and effective communication are lacking, which hampers the team's ability to collaborate and work together towards a shared goal. This reduced interaction impacts both the performance of individual workers and the overall success of the project.

The various tools available out there in the industry now are so advanced and diverse, which allows new concepts, new procedures, and new philosophies developing in making the project a success. Everything is driven by technology and hopefully efficiency, but this of course can break down quite easily for so many reasons, and one of these reasons is the inability or lack of having interpersonal relations in working out difficulties on the project face-to-face and situation-to-situation.



ROGER SIMPSON

LCA president 2013-2014

What is your biggest accomplishment, crowning moment, favourite project you completed and why?

I feel that one of my favourite accomplishments and legacy was to help guide and mentor

my son Justin Fisher into taking over ownership of our family-owned mechanical contracting business. It has been an absolute pleasure in having a front-row seat watching my son transition from an award-winning apprentice, receiving his red seal journeyman ticket, and now not only growing the business with his own vision, but being successful financially and also extending the vision of my father of giving back to the community he works in.

What is the biggest change to industry you've noticed?

I think there are two big changes I have seen over the years.

The first one being the mentality of being a tradesman. In the 80's, being a tradesman was a second thought if post-secondary schooling was unavailable. Today, being a tradesman is an accomplishment and will create strong opportunities for a career long term.

The second trend I have noticed is that it is more difficult to operate a business within the industry. Years past, a person could work off intent and within the spirit of a project or contract. Today, with so much more risk involved, there is a need and requirement for more documentation and processes outside doing the actual work involved.

What do you miss about how things used to be done?

Similar to my response to the second question, I've observed that earlier in my career, tradespeople on job sites worked more cohesively as a unified team, focusing on the collective success of a project. Nowadays, there seems to be a shift towards more individual objectives. With that being said, my perspective on this may be more subjective with age. ▲



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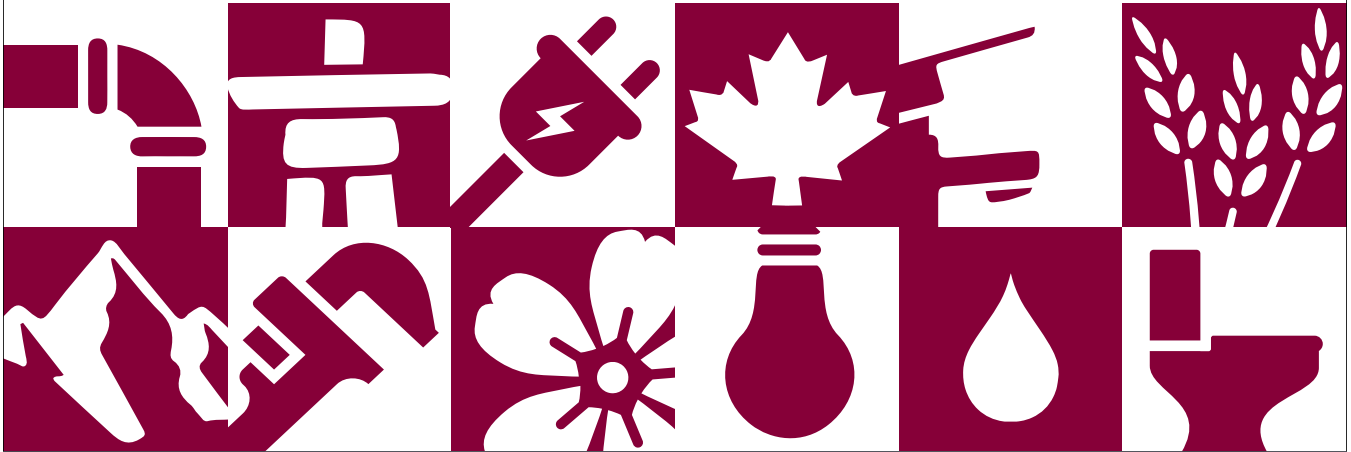


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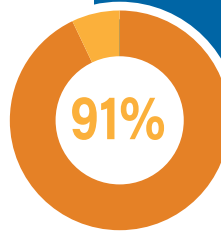
\$27B

Number of Apprentices in Alberta Skilled construction trades

36,968

7.2%

The construction industry contributes to Alberta's GDP



18,973

Number of construction companies under 20 employees

6.7% Increase

\$1689

Average weekly wages of a full-time construction worker in Alberta

The current number of construction employees in Alberta

241,800



63,000

Expected retirements by 2033 or 23% of our skilled workforce

Percentage of the construction workforce in AB that is female

36,600 **25%**



7% | 13,260

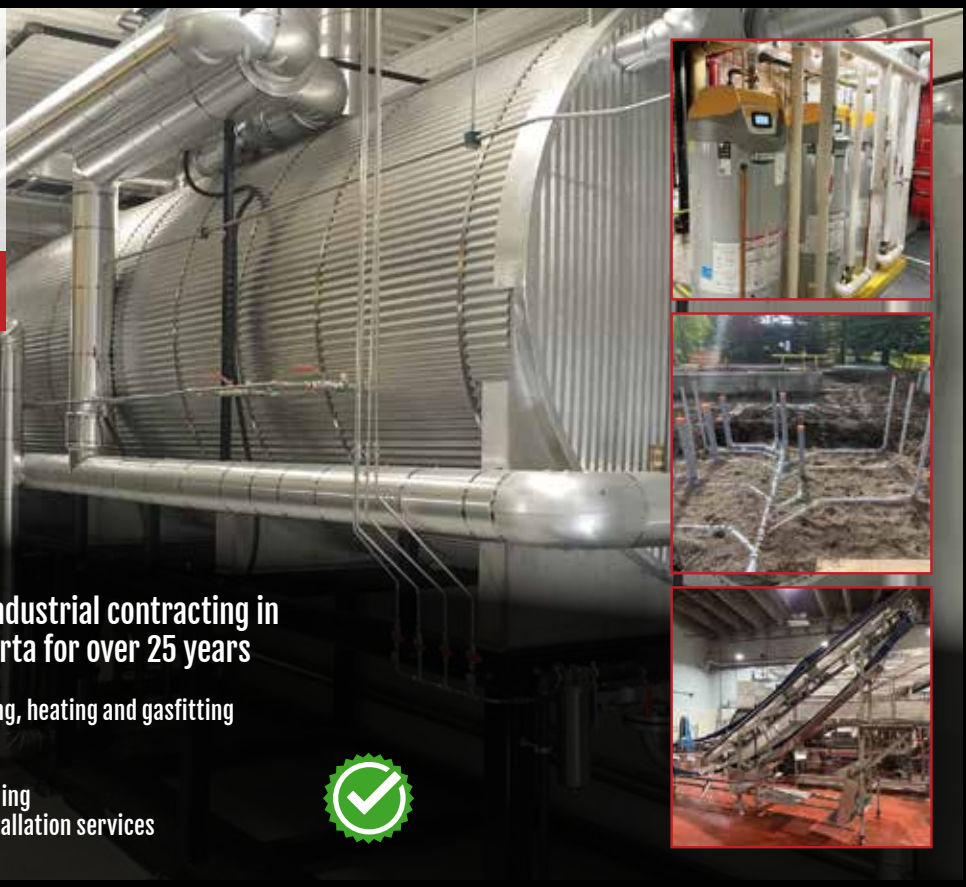
Number of skilled trades people that are female



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UPDATE FROM BUILDWORKS CANADA

In 2023, we committed to sustain and improve the overall member experience and introduce operational efficiencies. The year went quickly; however, many pieces came together, which was only possible through the collaboration of our local construction associations, boards and members, contracted service providers, and national colleagues.

Working with our contracted service providers, such as eSolutions (GHD) and Bid Central, was crucial in bringing positive change. Improvements included fixing the Map Functionality, auto-generating receipts for On Demand purchases, and implementing an improved Search Tooltip. While not

quite making it under the wire for 2023, other improvements are in the final stages of implementation, such as the redesigned Bulletin Reports (New & Updated, Awarded) and the streamlined Registration Process for users of myPlanRoom (Invitation to Bid). Many improvements and issues are logged with eSolutions for resolution in the next release, which was expected in March 2024.

The redesigned BuildWorks Canada website, which went live on Jan 31, 2024, represents a refreshed look and brings clarity to the services that BuildWorks offers. It features links and information on the BuildWorks Canada Planroom,

the Apps page, Directory, myPlanRoom, and Substantial Completion Certificates. New How-To videos have been created to help new users navigate the platform and introduce new features to current members. News & Tips articles will be released monthly to increase member engagement. We plan to generate additional revenue by adding advertising to the website on the Home Page and News & Tips page, where we expect the most user traffic. The redesigned website now includes a 'Request a Demo' feature and heavily focuses on converting visitors into members with links to local construction association member pages.

CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES (Q1 – Q4 2023)

Continued on following page...

Local Construction Association

Tagged Projects*



* Tagged project count is higher than overall project count as duplicates exist when multiple LCA's tag the same project to provide their members with visibility of the opportunities within their region.

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The 2023 Numbers

Our team of local construction associations worked diligently to source and post 3,811 projects in 2023. The awarded value was added for 1,236 projects totaling over \$2.5B.

This focused effort enabled our members to discover relevant project opportunities quickly.

Posting project opportunities remains the core service of BuildWorks, connecting members to procurements across the province.

BuildWorks Canada projects were sourced from an extensive array of owners across the province, and in 2023 we posted projects from over 480 different owners across 12 different owner types. Government projects (Municipal, Provincial and Federal) accounted for almost 75 per cent of the projects posted.

The percentage split between ICI and Civil remained consistent with previous years, with 2,229 or 58 per cent Civil projects and 1,582 or 42 per cent ICI projects.

The most extensive work classifications were Civil Supply/Service/Maintenance, with 819 projects and ICI Renovation, with 776 projects.

Serving members of local construction associations and the broader ICI construction industry is why BuildWorks Canada exists. With that at the heart of everything we do, we want to ensure that the BuildWorks Canada platform and its features serve our current and future members with the services they need.

We look forward to hearing from our membership in 2024 to identify and prioritize the services that matter most to ensure our 2024 service plan is aligned in providing even greater value to members, continuing to improve operational efficiencies and, new for this year, growth. ▲

CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES (Q1 - Q4 2023)

OWNER TYPE



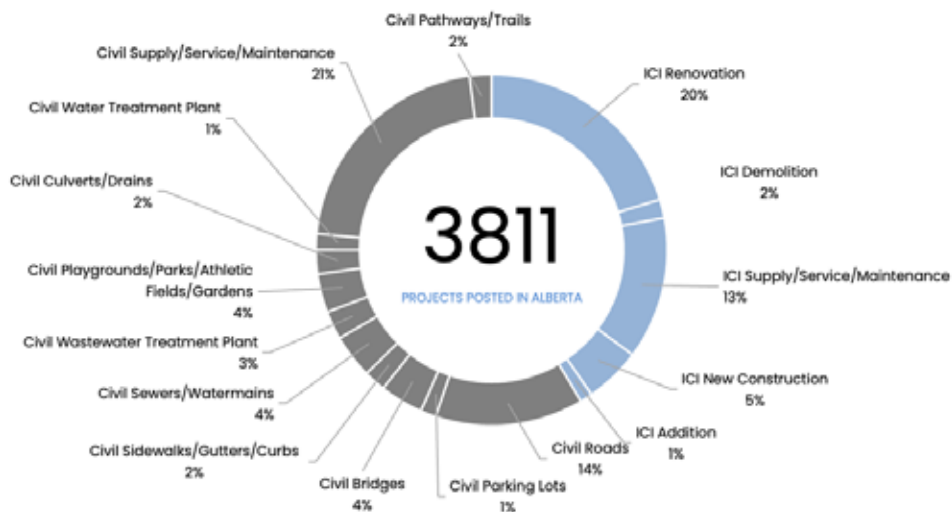
CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES (Q1-Q4 2023)

CLASSIFICATION OF WORK



CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES (Q1 - Q4 2023)

CLASSIFICATION OF WORK



LCA Events Recap

In 2023 and 2024, the Lethbridge Construction Association (LCA) experienced a series of events that brought together members and significantly influenced the construction industry in our region.

Scholarship & Safety Awareness BBQ 2023

We had a great turnout at last year's scholarship presentation and Safety Awareness BBQ. The LCA was very proud to present LCA Apprentice Scholarship Awards to the following recipients: **Victor Ducharma**, Sheet Metal; **Kane Buck**, Electrician; **Justis Frith (Jensen)**, Sheet Metal; **Kyle Fillmore**, Millwright; **Benjamin Townley**, Electrician; **Lee Vandermolen**, Plumbing; **Reese Maldaner**, Carpentry; **Shane Gordon**, HVAC; **Nathan Povey**, Sheet Metal; **Brendon Paiha**, Carpentry; **Kenneth Hoytos**, Carpentry; **Bradley Burrows**, Carpentry; **Evan Lowe**, Plumbing; **Curtis Dodd Memorial Award: Victor Ducharma**.



AGM 2024

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the LCA Annual General Meeting. It was a terrific turnout and a great opportunity to network and hear our past president fireside chat, hosted by Rich Thiessen, along with past presidents Neil Nunweiler, Norbert Bohnert, Derek O'Connor, and Lyal Sakamoto.

Congratulations to the following individuals who were voted in for another two-year term by our member companies in attendance.

For the year 2024, our LCA Board of Directors are: **Evan Barr**, Neu-lite Electric Inc.; **Ben Guliker**, Nitro Construction; **Francis Rankin**, Southwest Design & Construction Ltd.; **Justin Fisher**, Simpson Plumbing; **Chad Borne**, Borne Industries Ltd.; **Hayley Feyter**, Zero Gravity Crane & Rigging Inc.; **Darren Guenther**, DMT Group; **Jesse Potrie**, FWBA Architects; **Rich Thiessen**, Silver Ridge Construction; **Trent Waldner**, LA Building Supplies Ltd.; **Bryan Alexander**, Tetra Tech Canada; **Dan Wood**, MPE Engineering Ltd.; **Jeff Wiebe**, KB Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd.; **Jonathan Hamilton**, Tollestrup Construction Inc.; **Colin Ward**, Ward Bros Construction; and **Peter Principalli**, McNally Contractors (2011) Ltd.



Past president's fireside chat.

Surety Lunch and Learn

On March 19, 2024, the LCA hosted a Surety Contractor Bonding Lunch & Learn. Special thank you to Schwartz Reliance Insurance & Registry and Intact Surety for your presentation, knowledge, and insightful information.



Golf Tournament 2024

The LCA held our annual golf tournament on June 7, 2024 and we had a fantastic day at Paradise Canyon Golf Resort. Thanks to a sold-out tournament and our amazing sponsors for helping us host an epic golf tournament for 2024! And of course, net proceeds raised going to support the LCA Apprenticeship Scholarship Fund.





COO Conference

From April 8 to 9, 2024, approximately 35 partner association chief operating officers (COOs) and staff, as well as Canadian Construction Association (CCA) staff, gathered in Montreal to network and share best practices. This is an annual opportunity organized by the CCA to bring together COOs from across Canada and senior CCA staff to engage in professional development and deepen relationships.

The CCA and provincial and local associations work together to deliver value to members and the industry. Continuously improving our value proposition and aligning on important initiatives helps to strengthen our integrated member model. A special bonus of this year's event was the opportunity to witness the eclipse!



Prompt Payment

Thanks to everyone who attended our Prompt Payment Update Lunch & Learn seminar on April 30, 2024. It is always great to hear from others in the industry and hear how others are navigating through challenging situations. Thank you again to Tyson Kwasney of Stringam LLP for sharing your knowledge with us and answering industry specific questions.





Coffee with Council

On June 14, 2024, the LCA Board of Directors attended Coffee with Council at Lethbridge City Hall where we informally discussed industry challenges and successes. There were lots of great ideas on how the LCA and the City can collaborate to improve local industry issues.

Thank you again to Mayor Hyggen and council for having us, and we look forward to meeting again!

Scholarship & Safety BBQ

Once again, we had a great turnout at this year's Scholarship presentation and Safety BBQ, which took place on May 29, 2024.

The LCA was very proud to present scholarship awards to the following recipients:

Curtis Dodd Memorial Award: Joseph Johnston, first; **Bradley Stevens**, Refrigeration & AC; **Wesley VanEe**, Electrician; **Solomon Jote**, Crane & Hoisting; **Ethan Turner**, Welder; **Jasmyn Hawreschuk**, Carpenter; **Austin Smith**, Welder; **Ryan Sparling**, Plumber & Gasfitter; **Ethan Pfiffner**, Electrician; **Austin Holmes**, Plumbing; **Cole Howse**, Sheet Metal Worker; **Shane Gordon**, Sheet Metal Worker; **Dominic Costa**, Sheet Metal Worker.



The 2024 LCA Scholarships recipients.



ACSA Trailblazer Award

Congratulations to Spraytek Insulation Ltd. for receiving the ACSA Trailblazer Award. The Trailblazer Award recognizes organizations that demonstrate their commitment to enhancing workplace safety and to promoting health and safety in the communities they serve. This award is presented in two categories: Small/Mid-Sized (Less Than 30 Employees) and Large (30 or More Employees).

Gerrit Bredeweh, owner of Spraytek and LCA member, along with Francis Rankin, ACSA representative for the Lethbridge Construction Association Board of Directors.



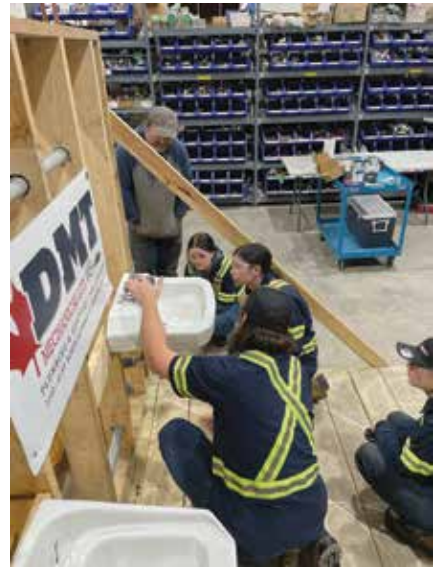
Try a Trade

Last November, the Lethbridge School Division offered a unique opportunity for students interested in careers in the trades to get some first-hand experience in real-world settings with local employers. Students and their parents spent an evening at various sites learning from skilled tradespeople in a hands-on environment. Students received a brief orientation and tour of the site, and proceeded to learn some new skills related to specific trades in a small group setting.

Thank you again to the many local trades who offered to host students and parents at their worksites.



Try a Trade





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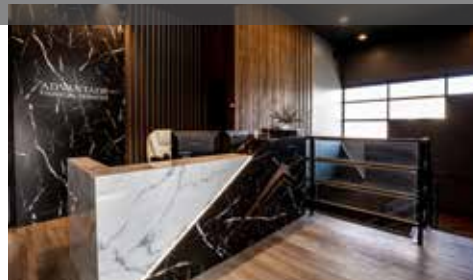
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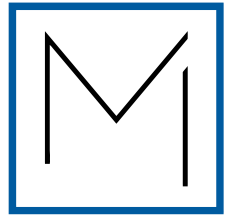
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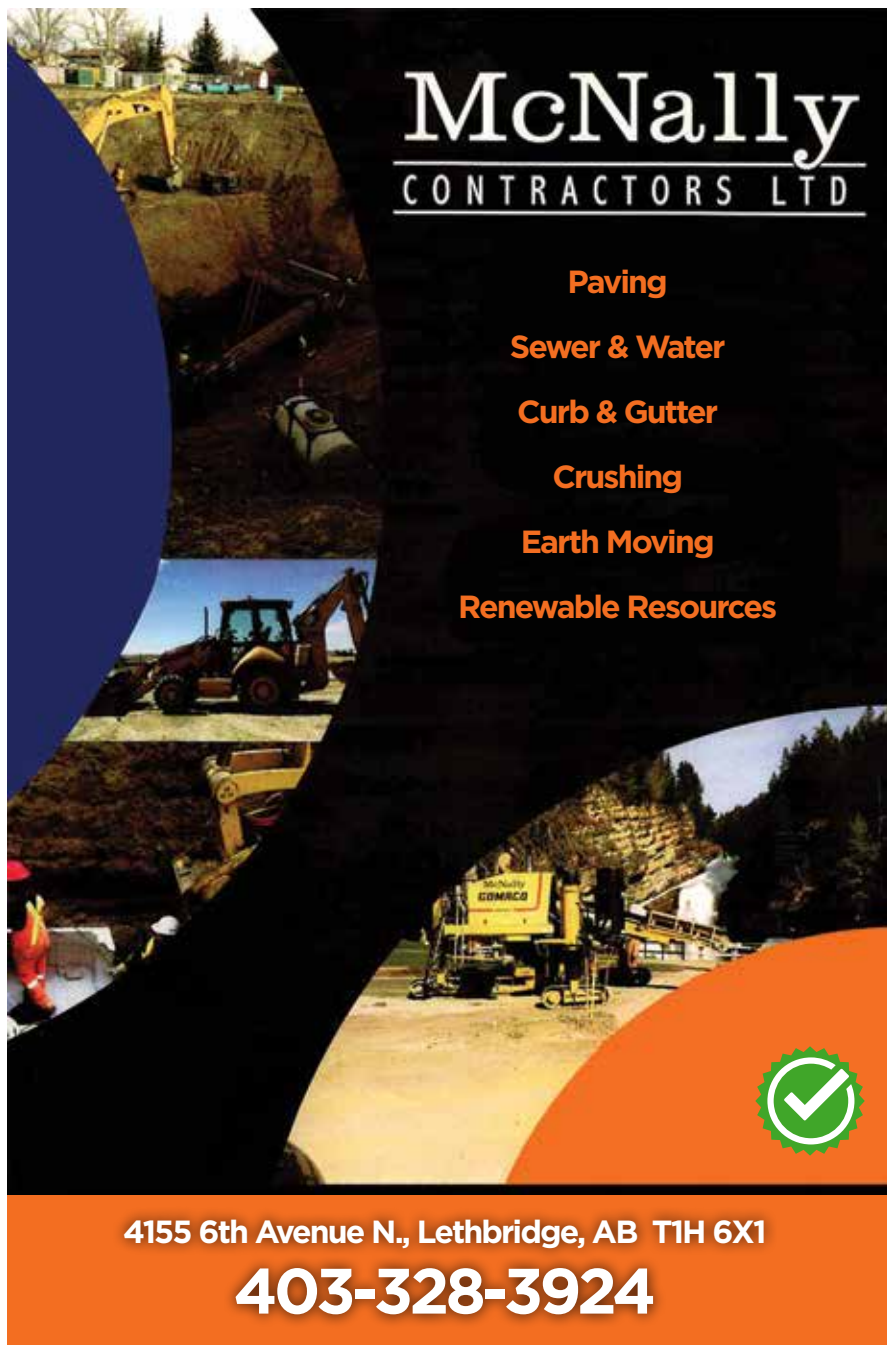
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Division 00 - 2018 Master Specification for Procurement & Contracting Requirements	Electronic	310.00	620.00
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CCDC 2 – 2020 Stipulated Price Contract (Owner-Contractor) (includes 2 seals) <i>Note: General Supplementary Conditions for use in the Province of Alberta must be used</i>	Electronic Seals	98.00 17.00	196.00 34.00
CCDC 2MA – 2023 Master Agreement (2016 still available to order) (includes 2 seals)	Electronic	98.00	196.00
CCDC 2WA – 2023 Work Authorization (2016 still available to order)	Seals	17.00	34.00
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CCDC 9A & 9B 2018 Statutory Declarations <i>Free download for documents 9A&9B from www.ccdc.org</i>	Seals	3.50	7.00
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Item Description	Filetype	Member	Non-Member
CCDC 31 – 2020 Service Contract Between Owner and Consultant (includes 2 seals)	Electronic Seals	98.00 17.00	196.00 34.00
CCDC 40 – 2018 Rules for Mediation and Arbitration of Construction Disputes	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCDC 44 – 2016 A Guide to the Use of CCDC 14 & CCDC 15	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCDC 45 – 2011 A Guide to the Use of CCDC 5A – 2010	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCDC 46 – 2011 A Guide to the Use of CCDC 5B – 2010	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCDC 47 – 2011 A Guide to the Use of CCDC 17 - 2010	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCDC 48 – 2002 A Guide to the Use of CCDC 18 – 2001	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCA 50 – 2003 A Contractor's Guide to Project Financing & Payment Security Complimentary Download for Members www.cca-acc.com	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCA 51 – 2008 Guide to Calling Bids and Awarding Subcontracts	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCA 52 – 2008 Joint Venture Guide	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCA 53 – 2016 A Trade Contractor's Guide and Checklist to Construction Contracts	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCA 61 – 2008 Risks of Pre-Purchasing Equipment and Materials for Construction Projects Complimentary Download for Members www.cca-acc.com	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCA 90 – 2007 Guidelines for Electronic Procurement	Electronic	28.00	56.00
CCDC 220, 221, 222 - 2024 Bond Forms	Electronic	22.00	44.00
Other Publications			
CCA 2010 Human Resources Toolkit: A Guide to Leadership in the Construction Industry	Hardcopy	94.00	188.00
A Complete set of CCA Contracts & Guides (Binder) Seals included	Electronic	480.00	960.00
A Complete set of CCDC Contracts & Guides (Binder) Seals included	Electronic	1100.00	2200.00

Registration numbers must be purchased through your local LCA to download all electronic documents from the Canadian Construction Association and Canadian Construction Document Committee websites. The following electronic documents require Copyright Authorization Seals: CCA 1, CCDC 2, CCDC 2MA, CCDC 3, CCDC 4, CCDC 5A & 5B, CCDC 9A & 9B, CCDC 10, CCDC 11, CCDC 14, CCDC 15, CCDC 17, CCDC 18, CCA 19, CCDC 30 and CCDC 31. Use of the Seal demonstrates that the document is accurate and amended. The above documents all come with at least 1 complimentary seal with purchase of the registration number. ~ Failure to affix Copyright Seals constitutes an infringement of copyright ~

CCDC 2 (2020), CCDC 3 (2016), CCDC 4 (2011), CCDC 5B (2010), CCDC 14 (2013), CCDC 17 (2010) and CCDC 18 (2001) **Supplementary General Conditions for Use in Alberta**

Supplementary General Conditions for the CCDC suite of contracts are required to align with lien legislation unique to each province. CCDC has been modifying language as each contract in their suite of contracts is updated, which in turn simplifies the wording required in the ACA SGC. The SGC for [CCDC 2-2020](#) can be found via LCA office. The SGC for [CCDC 14-2013](#) can be requested via the LCA office and will require further modification once CCDC 14 is updated sometime in the next several years. CCDC 30 does not require a SGC because the payment and holdback provisions are much less prescriptive than in the other CCDC contracts and there doesn't appear to be any conflicts with Alberta's lien legislation.

CANADIAN DESIGN-BUILD INSTITUTE DOCUMENTS

(all prices subject to GST)

Item Description	Filetype	Member	Non-Member
Series 100 (2000) Canadian Design-Build Institute Practice Manual Introduction & General	Hardcopy	55.00	110.00
Document 110 – 2018 A Guide to the Transportation and Infrastructure Sector	Hardcopy	37.00	74.00
Series 200 (2000) Canadian Design-Build Institute Practice Manual Procurement Award	Hardcopy	55.00	110.00
Document 210 (2004) RFP Guide	Hardcopy	55.00	110.00
Series 300 (2004) – Responding to RFQ's & RFP's	Hardcopy	55.00	110.00
Document 310 (2004) Conceptual Estimating	Hardcopy	33.00	66.00
Series 400 (2009) – A Guide to Project Delivery	Hardcopy	55.00	110.00

Lethbridge Construction Association 1705 – 36 Street North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 6L1
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ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION DOCUMENTS & GUIDES

(all prices subject to GST)

Item Description	Member	Non-Member
ACA Form A - 2022 Standard Contract Between Contractor & Subcontractor <i>*Requires the Form A Copyright Seal</i>	*Free to Members	*\$5.00 Plus Purchase of Seals
ACA Form A – 2022 Copyright Seal <i>*Required for use of the Form A Standard Contract</i>	3.00	6.00
ACA Form B - 2022 Standard Contract Between Subcontractor & Sub-Subcontractor <i>*Requires the Form B Copyright Seal</i>	*Free to Members	*\$5.00 Plus Purchase of Seals
ACA Form B – 2022 Copyright Seal <i>*Required for use of the Form B Standard Contract</i>	3.00	6.00
ACA Form C Supplement 1 – Certificate of Substantial Performance of Prime Contract	Hardcopy 3.00 Electronic 49.00	Hardcopy 6.00 Electronic 49.00
ACA Form C Supplement 2 – Certificate of Substantial Performance of Subcontract	Hardcopy 3.00 Electronic 49.00	Hardcopy 3.00 Electronic 49.00
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*Shoppers World at 407 Mayor Magrath Drive South, September 11, 1959.
Photos courtesy of the Galt Museum & Archives.*

The five most impactful buildings

CONSTRUCTED IN LETHBRIDGE SINCE 1954

By Belinda Crowson

The Lethbridge Construction Association's challenge?

From the long list of institutional, commercial, and educational buildings constructed in Lethbridge since 1954, we wanted to narrow the list to the five buildings which have had the most long-lasting impact on Lethbridge.

Definitely not an easy task. We all have different relationships with buildings based on where we have worked, our life experiences, our favourite architectural style, and more, so each of us have our favourite buildings. Further, we all consider impact differently – impacting whom? In what manner?

So, I don't doubt that others will have different lists and different explanations of impact. But, still, I can never refuse a fun challenge. So, here's my list.

Shoppers World

Imagine the retail experience in Lethbridge prior to the 1950s. People had the option for catalogue shopping to access items not carried in Lethbridge

stores. But when people went to the stores, the stores tended to be relatively small and in urban commercial areas. Yes, there were small corner stores, but for most people prior to the Second World War, shopping meant going downtown or along 13 Street North. It was usually possible to walk to, and through, these areas and quite a bit of shopping was done via pedestrian traffic.

The retail experience in Lethbridge started to change after the Second World War and into the 1950s and that change was heralded when Shoppers World, Lethbridge's first mall, opened. Shoppers World was located between 4 and 5 Avenues along Mayor Magrath Drive South. If you're trying to picture where it is, though significantly changed since the 1950s, it is the Sandman Inn Plaza on Mayor Magrath Drive South.

In April 1954 it was announced that work was progressing on the \$1,125,000 shopping area with plans for 20 to 21 businesses, including a supermarket and bank.

The initial unit of Shoppers World – the Town and Country Food Centre – opened in January 1955. Shoppers World itself was officially opened in November 1956. The mall was developed by Art Batty and was an open-air facility with a covered walkway under which people could move from store to store. Shoppers World promoted itself as a complete one-stop shopping centre with ample parking spaces and noted that it was patterned along the lines of shopping centres springing up across North America. It was also a suburban shopping experience, rather than the traditional urban shopping Lethbridgians had known previously.

When the mall opened in 1956, the following stores were located there: Dominion Town and Country supermarket, Dr. H.L. Matkin (dentist), Halifax Gift Shop, Tamblin's Drug Store, Jones-Brown Rugs, Bank of Nova Scotia, Parson's Hardware and Appliances, Andy's Apache Lounge restaurant, Enso's Barber Shop, Fremstad's Radio and TV, a

dairy bar, Art Batty Construction offices, Perkinson and McKeague Real Estate, and Dual Craft.

Shoppers World may have been the first mall in Lethbridge, but certainly not the only and its development helped lead the way for several more to develop. These malls not only helped to change the retail world, but Shoppers World, and then soon afterwards College Value Mall also were part of the growth of Mayor Magrath Drive, a growth which started to pull development away from the downtown and into the south-east corner of Lethbridge.

Some people, such as lawyer W.E. Huckvale, argued that Lethbridge's future success depended on development along Mayor Magrath Drive as it ensures Lethbridge's connections to the southerly highways, particularly Highway 4 into Montana. Others, though, were concerned about this trend for development to move south and east and away from downtown. Those opinions and concerns play out in decisions around other developments in Lethbridge, and we'll get back to it later in our story.

Lethbridge Polytechnic and University of Lethbridge

For many decades, Lethbridge residents were concerned about a lack of post-secondary education in Lethbridge. Yes, there were small business and secretarial colleges, but little else. So most young people had to go to Calgary or Edmonton (or elsewhere) for college and university. Sometimes that meant they didn't return to Lethbridge after their education. This brain drain was considered an issue and Lethbridge and area residents long promoted the need to the province and the University of Alberta (U of A) for a post-secondary institution in Lethbridge.

Finally, permission was given to start the Lethbridge Junior College and on 17 April 1957, the Junior College opened. This only happened because of the work

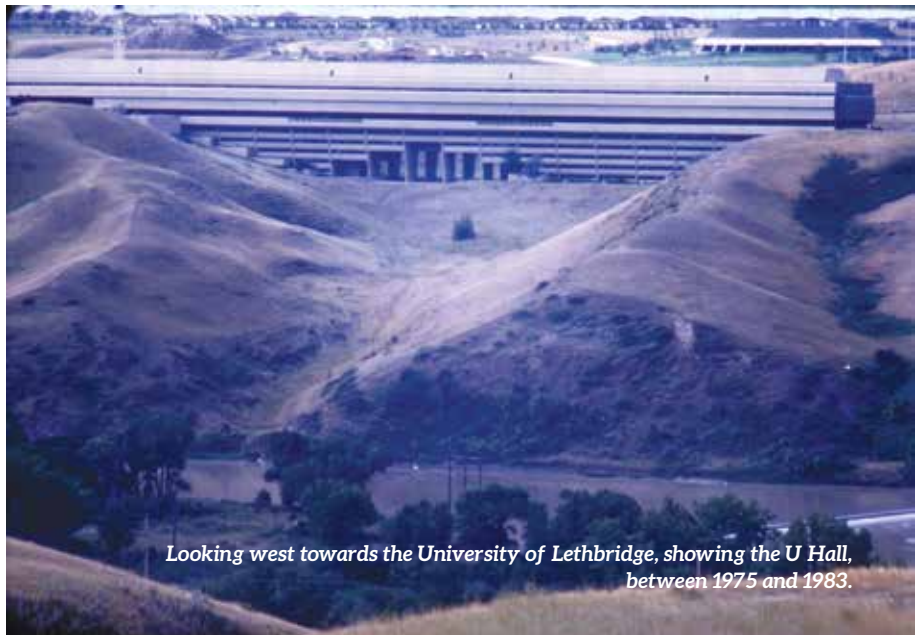
and commitment of people like Gilbert C. Paterson, Kate Andrews, W.J. Cousins, Allan J. Cullen, and L.H. Bussard. They rallied the community with the idea and highlighted how a post-secondary institution was vital for improving high school dropout rates, enhancing the local economy, and supporting growth in Lethbridge and region. They also convinced the province and U of A that such a college could be successful.

The Lethbridge Junior College originally combined two things that the community of Lethbridge greatly needed – it provided first- and second-year level university courses so that students could do their first two years in Lethbridge and

then transfer, and it provided vocational training for students. When the college started, it had 36 students and was located out of the LCI building.

Soon, though, the college acquired land at the south end of the city and in October 1962 the cornerstone was laid for the first of the college buildings – the Dr. Kate Andrews building. Over time, more land was acquired, and more buildings constructed. It was the start of locally provided large-scale post-secondary education in the region.

However, the location of the college southeast of downtown further increased the pull of development into that area, further isolating downtown on the coulee



Looking west towards the University of Lethbridge, showing the U Hall, between 1975 and 1983.



Aerial view of the Lethbridge Junior College in June 1965.

edge at the west of Lethbridge.

When, in 1967, the University of Lethbridge started a decade after the Junior College, there was a great deal of discussion and debate around the location of the campus. The university was originally located on the college campus. Some people hoped that would become the university's permanent home. Others argued that the university should go into north Lethbridge, to help give that area of town a boost like what the Junior College had done for the south.

Others though argued for a westside location for the university. Among those who promoted development of the university on the west side of the Oldman River were local planners. They realized that by building on the west side it would help to recentre geographically downtown and support that area of town, keeping downtown central to the community, both literally and figuratively.

Despite concerns from some aldermen about a satellite city developing if the city moved west of the river, in the end, the west side location won out. The City of Lethbridge annexed land west of the river in the late 1960s, starting the process that would lead to today's west Lethbridge. If a different decision had been made about the location of the university, how different might the development of the entire city have been?

In 1971, U Hall was ready for use and officially opened in 1972. The Arthur Erickson-designed building has over the past 50+ years been joined by many new buildings. The university has grown and so, too, has west Lethbridge with over 40 per cent of Lethbridge residents living on the west side of the river.

Both Lethbridge Polytechnic and University of Lethbridge greatly impacted the level of education and research done in Lethbridge, not only providing education for local students but teaching people from around the



Construction of the Lethbridge Water Tower on 3 Avenue South, 1958.

world. Additionally, both organizations, by the very sites where they are located, contributed greatly to the physical growth and development of Lethbridge.

Water Tower

During the same time, the very nature of Lethbridge was undergoing a shift.

For decades, Lethbridge saw itself as the "Coal City in the Wheat Country" – a community built on, and dependent on, both coal mining and farming. Each of these was essential for the local economy, providing jobs and growth.

Then, in the period after the Second World War, came the collapse in the western Canadian coal mining industry.

These especially hit communities such as Lethbridge where coal was mined for home heating purposes. While Lethbridge, and some other communities, first received natural gas in 1912, the 1940s and 1950s saw a rapid conversation to natural gas for domestic heating in many more locations. Additionally, the railway industry converted from coal to diesel fuel locomotives.

The Galt 8 mine on Lethbridge's western coulees closed in 1957, while the Galt 10 mine at Shaughnessy (formerly Standard Mine) ceased its operations in 1965. Coal mining in the Lethbridge area was ending and the region's economy

suffered as a result.

The City of Lethbridge found it necessary to appoint an industrial development commission and hire an industrial commissioner to help create a new economic future for the community. Part of the plan created was to create an industrial park in the northeast corner of Lethbridge.

For the industrial park to grow, it was essential to provide appropriate water to the area. Thus, they came to the decision to construct a reservoir on Mayor Magrath Drive (built in 1954) and the water tower (built in 1958-59). The water tower was built by Horton Steel, the company responsible for approximately 95 per cent of the water towers in North America.

Horton Steel Works not only built the water tower but was also one of the first businesses to develop on the site of the new industrial park. It was soon followed by Western Canadian Seed Processors Limited (later Canbra Foods Limited), which was built there in 1958.

Growth of the industrial park continued in the 1960s and 1970s, though it wasn't without difficulties. In 1969, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, under the Regional Development Act, designated Lethbridge as an area needing economic assistance for the next four years. The federal government provided generous grants to 196 companies. There were also other government incentives throughout the 1970s. These programs brought some new companies to Lethbridge, but also helped some plants expand and other companies move from other areas of Lethbridge into the industrial park. Some of the new businesses, as well as those who expanded and/or moved, included: Swift Canadian, Lethbridge Iron Works, Canadian Dressed Meats, Kirchner Machine, Prebuilt Industries, Custom Engine and Parts, Southern Feeds, Western Canadian Seed Processing, and Western Truck Body.

By the mid-1970s, Lethbridge's industrial park had become large and complex. Accordingly, city council ordered its economic development department to subdivide it and to select names for various portions of the park. The department chose A. C. Anderson, A. W. Shackleford, Palliser and Churchill industrial parks as acceptable names, which were readily approved by council. These industrial parks, now joined by Sherring Business Park, continue to serve the economic needs of Lethbridge.

The water tower also continues to serve Lethbridge, though in a very different way. For 40 years, until 1999, the water tower functioned as an essential part of the Lethbridge water system.

When the city decommissioned it from use, conversation turned to what would become of the large green building. In the early 2000s, Doug Bergen decided to convert it into a restaurant. There were challenges with the construction and redevelopment of the water tower, and with getting permission and permits, but the project moved ahead. In June 2004, Ric's Grill opened in the water tower.

With the polytechnic and university, Lethbridge was ensuring the educational needs of the community, while the water tower and the industrial park it supported, were enhancing the economy

of the community and supporting the finances of many local families. Lethbridge was ready by the early 1970s to put itself more centrally on the national stage.

Sportsplex

Large events and hosting the world, or even the nation, can have a transformative effect on a community. Both in the pride a community derives from a successful event, but also in the building projects that live on as a legacy of the event. There are a few events that are written about and discussed decades after they occurred.

To historians, the grandest event and spectacle Lethbridge and region ever held was the 1912 Dry Farming Congress, that showcased the region to the world and contributed to the early development of Henderson Park and the Exhibition. Based on the population of Lethbridge in 1912 (roughly 8,000) and the number of visitors to the congress (about 5,000), it still rates as the largest event hosted by the community.

The 1975 Canada Winter Games also must rank as one of the best events Lethbridge and region has ever hosted. From February 11 to 23, 1975, it was all about the games. Twelve communities and over 4,000 volunteers were required to put on the event. Over 600 athletes



An artist's rendition of the future Sportsplex.

participated in 17 different sports.

Work and planning started years in advance, especially on the Jeux Canada Games Sportsplex, the building that was central to the activities of the games here in Lethbridge. Construction began on the building in 1973, shortly after Lethbridge and southern Alberta learned they were to host the event.

All three orders of government contributed to the construction of the building – with the province putting forward \$500,000, the federal government \$1 million, and the city approximately \$300,000. The city's money came from an insurance fund paid out following the loss of the Lethbridge Arena in 1971. The city also took out a 20-year debenture to cover the remaining costs of the \$4.3 million building.

While built for the February 1975 games, the Sportsplex opened in October 1974 with the first event, which was a game between the Lethbridge Broncos and the Regina Pats. Also in October 1974, the Ice Capades entertained southern Alberta residents with seven performances that drew in around 30,000 people. The first concert in the new building was a performance by then 16-year-old Tanya Tucker.

From those beginning entertainments until now, the Sportsplex has been the go-to location in Lethbridge for major events and activities, continuing to serve the community well here in its 50th year of operations. Over those 50 years, it has hosted everything from concerts, circuses, curling championships, automobile events like the World of Wheels, basketball events, graduations and banquets, skating events, the Canadian Judo Championships, the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, Christmas craft sales, and so much more.

The first four I chose were about developments in the community. However, as Lethbridge has aged, sometimes redevelopment has also been necessary. The single largest



redevelopment project was the Centre Site project.

The Centre Site project

Without the railway, there would have been no north-south divide in Lethbridge. For in 1885, the year the community moved out of the river valley and up to the prairie level, the railway was built from Dunmore into Lethbridge, dividing the community into two. From its beginning as one lone track, the rail yards grew and developed over the years, creating a large gap between the north and south parts of the community.

In the 1980s, the Centresite Project, a complicated and expensive project that involved all three orders of government (municipal, provincial, and federal) saw the relocation of the tracks and building of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Kipp, part of the space where the rail yards were opened for redevelopment, and Highway 3 moved from 3 Avenue South to the newly created Crowsnest Trail. As part of the Crowsnest Trail construction, redevelopment was done on all the bridges, overpasses, and underpasses through Lethbridge.

With all the planning and work, the project took over a decade to get plans, agreements, finances, and approvals in place. Then came the actual deconstruction and construction. Taken all together, the Centre Site Project completely changed the centre of Lethbridge.

In addition to the Crowsnest Trail, some of the buildings that today exist on

the old railyard site include:

- Park Place Mall (1988)
- Toys R Us (1992)
- Garden View Lodge (1992)
- Lethbridge Police Station (1996)
- Chapters (1999)

In addition to these new buildings, the old Union Train Station was redeveloped into the Lethbridge Health Unit, a purpose it has now served for approximately 40 years. Commercial and retail spaces, housing for seniors, a new home for the Lethbridge Police Service – all these uses became possible on the Centresite area, and all continue to serve the community to this day.

So, there it is, my five choices. And, yes, I know I played a little fast and loose by including more than one building in some of my choices. But as I said, it isn't easy to narrow it down to just five. Already I'm wondering if I should have included Yates Memorial Theatre, or the downtown branch of the Lethbridge Public Library, or the Cavendish Centre or...

Because one thing that can definitely be said is that our buildings impact us – individually and collectively. In a practical way, they provide the spaces for our social, economic, religious, recreational, and educational lives. We are also though impacted by their architecture and aesthetics, and it's not to be surprised that people have favourite buildings, buildings they love as they are part of our everyday existence.

So, what five buildings would you have included in your list and why? ▲



Milestones

Did you know that FWBA Architects, founded in 1928, is the oldest continuing architectural practice in Western Canada? Here is a little bit of our history.

- 1928 H. Wm. Meech
- 1937 Meech & Meech
- 1940 V.E. Meech
- 1947 Meech Mitchell
- 1954 Meech Mitchell Robins & Associates
- 1963 Meech Mitchell Robins & Watson
- 1968 Mitchell Robins & Watson
- 1973 Robins Watson & Associates
- 1975 Robins Watson Baunton Architects – Engineers
- 1986 Watson Horton Architects
- 1990 Watson Horton Ferrari Architects
- 1994 Horton Ferrari Architects
- 1999 Horton Ferrari Westwood Architects
- 2003 Ferrari Westwood Architects
- 2008 Ferrari Westwood Babits Architects
- 2015 FWBA Architects

Over the years, FWBA has also held offices in Calgary (2010-2018) and Medicine Hat (2016-present). FWBA Architects has

had a profound impact on Lethbridge and the surrounding communities through the vast number of distinct buildings they have designed or modernized including these local projects, to name just a few:

Churches: Buchanan Chapel Southminster United, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, McKillop United, St. Augustine's Anglican

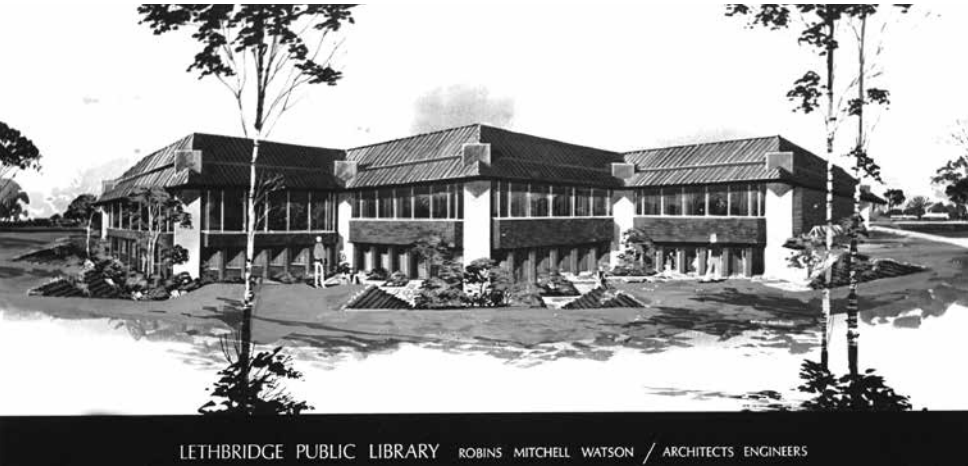
Schools: Coaldale' Kate Andres High, Lethbridge Wilson Junior High, Buchanan Elementary, Catholic Central High, Gilbert Paterson Junior High, Winston Churchill High, Senator Joyce Fairburn Middle School, Huntsville School (Iron Springs), Dr. Robert Plaxton Elementary School.

St. Michaels General Hospital and residential School of Nursing, Lethbridge, Lethbridge Public Library, Waterton United Church, Lethbridge City Hall, Waterton Lakes National Visitor Centre.

University of Lethbridge: U Hall, Fine Arts Building, Max Bell Aquatic Centre, Student Union Building, Health & Wellness Building

Congratulations on 60 years of serving Albertans with thoughtful and inspired architecture! ▲





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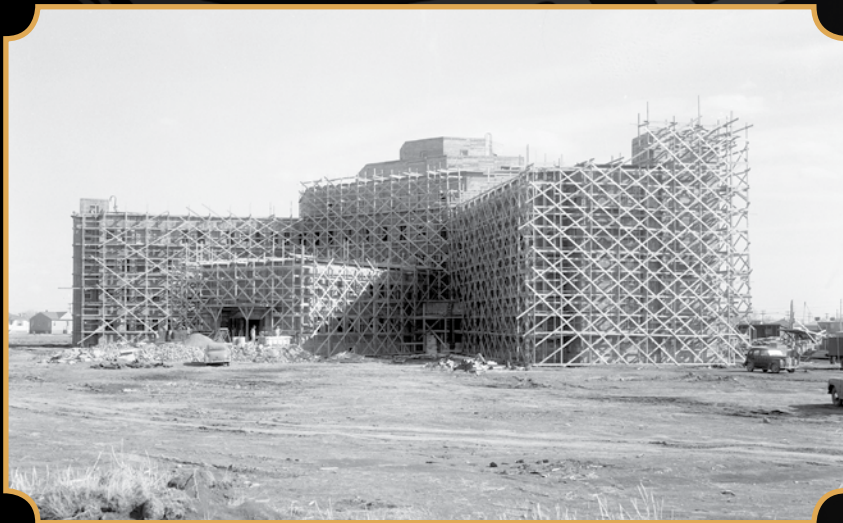
Historic Highlight Reel



1954 - Aerial Survey of West from Henderson Lake.
Construction of Municipal Hospital under way.



December 1953 - Showing the construction of the Municipal Hospital 9th Avenue and 18th Street South.



May 1954- Construction of the Municipal Hospital.

1955 - West side of 13th Street North, near north Lethbridge Hardware.





1958 - An aerial view of the St. Mary's Dam showing the spillway with storm drain beside it.

1960 - View from the water tower on 3rd Avenue and Mayor Magrath Drive looking west along Second and Third Avenues.



1963-A truck delivers the sections for the arch of the Memorial to the Pioneers of Irrigation in downtown Lethbridge.

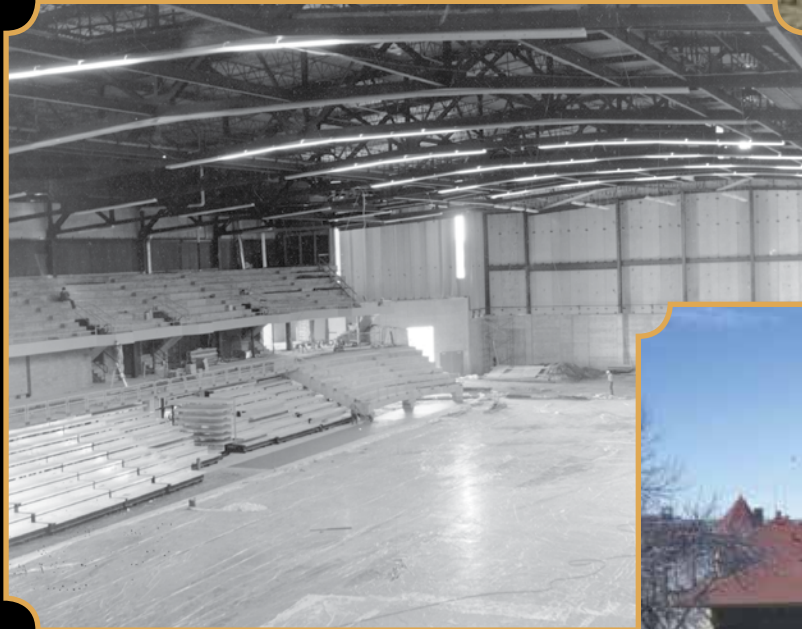
1964 - Aerial view of the Lethbridge Junior College (now Lethbridge Polytechnic).





July 1974 - View of the construction of the Whoop-Up Drive Bridge.

1975 - Construction of the Sportsplex, Lethbridge, AB for the Canada Winter Games.



1975 - The interior of the Sportsplex under construction.

1980s - CP rail yard before it was moved, now Park Place Mall.



1964 - Aerial view of the Lethbridge Junior College
(now Lethbridge Polytechnic).



View of the Performing Arts section of the University
of Lethbridge under construction.

1965 - West side of 300 block of 5th Street South,
downtown, commercial, city of Lethbridge.





Family has always been at the heart of D.A. Electric Ltd., and this tradition continues strong today.



MEET FIVE INSPIRING *Multi-generational families*

These LCA member companies—who have passed the proverbial shovel from generation to generation—have shared many of their great memories.

By Lisa Kopochinski

Family businesses have long existed in many different industries—including construction.

The Lethbridge Construction Association has some very interesting members who have been in business for decades and been passed down from father to sons, daughters, and even nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Here are four great stories about LCA members—D.A. Electric, Gillett Construction/RBG Construction, Ward Bros. Construction, and Wesbridge Construction—who agreed to tell us about their interesting histories with a strong impact within the local commercial construction industry in Lethbridge and Southern Alberta.

“This journey showcases our commitment to family and growth through the decades.”

D.A. Electric’s Rich History of Nearly 50 Years

Celebrating its 49th anniversary this year, D.A. Electric Ltd. has long prided itself on being a versatile company, capable of handling a wide range of projects.

From residential services to large-scale commercial buildings and complex industrial facilities, the company’s expertise extends to underground utilities, fibre optics, data cabling, and beyond, ensuring we meet the diverse needs of our clients.

D.A. Electric Ltd. has a rich history that dates to March 1975 when it was founded by Del Allen in Lethbridge. Less than six months later, in September 1975, his brother Don joined, leading to the company’s incorporation. And things didn’t end there. The

family legacy continued when Doug Allen, Del’s son, became a part of the business in 1991.

Fast forward to 2013 when Doug took over as the sole proprietor, and recently, in 2022, the company embraced a new era of partnership with family member Dustin Smith joining.

“This journey showcases our commitment to family and growth through the decades,” says Doug, who couldn’t be prouder.

“Family has always been at the heart of D.A. Electric Ltd., and this tradition continues strong today with eight family members actively involved. This includes Doug Allen, Brad Hansen, Tj Torgunrud, Jeff Torgunrud, Derek Allen, Cheyenne Allen, and

Theo Vandyke from Doug Allen's side of the family, as well as Ty Bodnar from Dustin Smith's family. Their collective dedication and shared values drive our company forward, maintaining the close-knit and committed atmosphere established by our founders."

One project that stands out in the company's history is the Lethbridge Polytechnic Trades and Technology Renewal and Innovation Project (TTRIP). Doug says this state-of-the-art educational facility offers hands-on training and innovative experimentation across multiple disciplines, including electrical, welding, mechanical, and wind energy, among others.

"The project brought together four technology and eight trades programs under one roof, fostering unparalleled

collaboration. We are exceptionally proud of this project not only because it aligns with our expertise in the electrical trade, but also because it's the largest and most ambitious project we have ever completed."

As for what the near future holds, Doug doesn't hesitate.

"Over the next three to five years, we anticipate significant growth both for our company and the industry. Our primary objective is to continue diversifying our skillsets and expanding our range of services to meet the evolving demands of the market. We're optimistic that the local industry will also experience growth, presenting new opportunities for expansion and innovation, which we are eager to embrace."

"We have built or renovated a lot of iconic buildings in southern Alberta, and we are proud of them all."

Ward Bros. Construction is Showing No Signs of Slowing Down

Formed nearly 50 years ago in 1976 by brothers Cecil and Hugh Ward—who emigrated from Ireland to Canada—Lethbridge-based Ward Bros. Construction is showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

In the beginning, the company focused primarily on small residential and commercial projects and has grown to become one of the largest general contracting and construction management companies in southern Alberta.

"We are a general contractor and construction management company that focuses primarily on commercial, institutional construction project," says Colin Ward, who is a member of the second generation of the Ward family. He joined the company in 1995 after graduating from the Civil Engineering Technology program at Lethbridge Polytechnic.

"Currently we have three family members working at Ward Bros., but throughout the years we've had various sons, daughters, siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins working here too."



A 40-year member of the Lethbridge Construction Association, Ward Bros. focuses on three main areas: General Contracting, Construction Management, and Design-Build. A critical niche for the company involves projects that are being restored and/or modernized where services or people may need to be temporarily relocated to minimize disruption and costs.

With a very impressive list of projects under its proverbial construction belt, Ward says, "We have built or renovated a lot of iconic buildings in southern Alberta, and we are proud of them all. The most recent is the new Agri-food Hub & Trade Centre, which opened last summer. The sheer size and impact that this facility will have on Lethbridge and the surrounding communities is something we are happy to say we were a part of."

Spanning more than 268,00 square feet, the Agri-food Hub & Trade Centre was designed and constructed with a strong emphasis on environmental stewardship and sustainability. The building incorporates energy-efficient systems and utilizes eco-friendly materials providing a comfortable and sustainable space for all visitors.

An ideal space to host an innovative and exciting agricultural industry, the centre's versatile spaces can house events large and small, from intimate social gatherings and meetings to nation-wide conventions and awards shows.

As for what Ward foresees for the company in the near future, he says, "I believe the industry will have a fairly busy next three to five years with labour and staffing issues continuing to be an increasing issued due to the aging population of our tradespeople."

“Lethbridge is a growing community and right now there is a need for reputable commercial contractors.”



Father (Roger Gillett) and son (Bruce) have been working together for more than four decades.

Gillet Construction/RBG Construction Have Strong Multigenerational Ties

Gillet Construction was initially formed in Lethbridge in 1966 by brothers Joe and Roger Gillet. It was clear that this would be a multigenerational company when Roger’s son Bruce decided to join the construction industry too.

After graduating from the University of Calgary with a degree in structural engineering, Bruce decided that construction was the right career path for him too.

“I worked for Gillet Construction from 1982 to 1984,” recalls Bruce, “but the company was struggling with the unions in 1984. That’s when I decided to go off on my own and start and incorporate RBG Construction Ltd. as a non-union contractor and attempt to stay competitive with Nyhoff Construction, Pinecone Structures, and Wesbridge Construction.”

When Gillet Construction closed in 1986, Roger came to work with his son at RBG Construction Ltd. as a consultant. Joe also began working with his son, Joe Jr., at Stellarine Construction.

“As the need for competitive non-union commercial construction increased, RBG Construction soon became one of a few well-known contractors in the Lethbridge area that could compete and deliver projects that met the client’s budget,” Bruce recalls.

RBG Construction’s first large project was the Live Shelter renovation and addition to the Lilydale processing plant in Lethbridge in 1985 for just over \$1 million.

“This was a large project for us in only our second year of being in business,” Bruce says. “This design-build project allowed us to make connections with many of the local trades. It also

opened the door to many other projects for Lilydale— including a large design-build addition to their Hatchery on 9th Ave. North in Lethbridge. Lilydale was a growing business in the 1980s, and they entrusted us to tend to their design and construction needs for many years. This project also helped pave the way for us to grow and take on other large projects.”

Lately, RBG Construction has been involved with commercial interior renovations.

“We have several clients that we work for regularly doing upgrades, maintenance, and general renovation work, and we get a lot of renovation work by referral,” says Bruce. “We’ve done many larger turn-key building projects over the past 40 years, but we are now mostly involving ourselves with mid-sized renovation work.”

A longtime LCA member for three decades, he says RBG Construction joined largely because use of the bid depository became mandatory for many public tenders.

“Also, back then we found the plan room was a useful way to provide drawings and specs for the trade contractors.”

As for what he foresees for the next three to five years, he says, “I see the demand for our type and size of project remaining pretty much as is. As the average age of journeyman carpenters gets higher each year, I find that trying to find and retain good men is increasingly harder each year. Lethbridge is a growing community, and right now there’s a need for reputable commercial contractors.”

“We have literally completed hundreds of projects in Southern Alberta over the past 55 years.”

Wesbridge Construction: A Strong History in Lethbridge

Wesbridge Construction was formed 1970 in Lethbridge by Kingo Sakamoto and his friend and partner Mel Murakami. The origin is interesting in that the two gentlemen had worked together previously at Bird Construction for 25 years.

Kingo's construction career actually began after he was in Lethbridge in 1945 as part of the forced relocation of Japanese Canadians by Ottawa during the Second World War. As a former boat builder, Bird Construction hired him to work in its Lethbridge office. A definite go-getter, Kingo worked his way up and became project manager and chief estimator.

When Bird Construction closed the Lethbridge office 54 years ago, Sakamoto decided to set up Wesbridge Construction to fill the void left by Bird Construction.

Wesbridge Construction—which provides services for industrial, commercial, and institutional construction projects in both Alberta and British Columbia—has been the leading general contractor in Lethbridge for over 50 years.

While Kingo Sakamoto passed away several years ago, his son Lyal, who is general manager, has continued to grow Wesbridge Construction.

“We continue to build on a solid reputation for quality construction on a variety of construction management, firm price, and design build projects. We have literally completed hundreds of projects in Southern Alberta over the past 55 years. And we are especially proud of the relationships formed with clients, trades, and suppliers over the years,” says Lyal Sakamoto.

The projects Wesbridge Construction has been involved in includes renovations and new builds for large and small companies in a wide range of industries that include commercial, industrial, and institutional. Just some of these are:

- Bayer CropScience
- Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
- Canbra Foods (Richardson Oilseed)
- Cavendish Farms
- City of Lethbridge Sportsplex
- Dunlop Sterling Truck Centre Ltd.
- Enercon Water Treatment Ltd.
- Frito Lay Canada
- Lethbridge Family Services
- Park Place Mall
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Triple M



Lyal Sakamoto, general manager at Wesbridge Construction, attributes this value of hard work and perseverance to his father Kingo.

- University of Lethbridge Research Laboratory Facility

In speaking about the company's relationship with the Lethbridge Construction Association, Lyal says his father was involved in the association for years with Bird Construction back in the 1950s and 1960s.

“When Wesbridge Construction was formed in 1970, we joined the LCA and have been a member for going on 55 years now,” says Lyal. “Most contractors (including us) joined the association back in the day for access to the plan room, and to the Alberta Bid Depository, later changed to ACTS. I was the president of the Lethbridge Construction Association 35 to 40 years ago in the 1980s and formed an appreciation for the work involved with both the LCA and the ACA.”

As for what he foresees for his company and the industry over the next three to five years, Lyal says, “the biggest change in the future is the transformation of technology and major technological advancements in the industry.” ▲



Peter and Gerda Bos (centre) with many members of their family. Photo courtesy of the Bos family.

“We look forward to adapting and growing with any changes that may arise in the industry.” – Steven Bos

Bos Scapes Inc. is truly a family business

Located in Coaldale, Alta.—11 kilometres east of Lethbridge—Bos Scapes Inc. has been providing commercial landscape services for parks, open spaces, golf courses, and roadsides for more than 25 years.

The company—which is COR-certified through the Alberta Construction Safety Association—prides itself on working closely with other small local businesses to ensure its products are of the highest quality and are suitable for Alberta’s climate.

However, the history dates back nearly 45 years when Bos Scapes Inc. owner Peter Bos emigrated to Canada from Holland in 1980 and began a sod farm with his family two years later in 1982. As he built the farm and established a strong reputation in Southern Alberta, Bos also began to do landscape work laying sod for customers.

As both the farm and the landscape division began to grow, he eventually founded a landscape business separate from his farm so that he could develop it into the thriving commercial landscape business we know as Bos Scapes Inc. today.

Currently four of Peter and his wife Gerda’s children—Monique, Ryan, Peter Jr., and Steven—run the day-to-day operations for both Bos Scapes Inc. & Bos Sod Farms.

“Faith, family, and community are just some of the driving forces that motivate us and our team to continue to build relationships with all of the customers we are privileged to serve,” says Steven.

The company’s main types of projects include commercial landscape construction and maintenance, as well as civil construction, reclamation and erosion control, golf course construction and design, complete turf restoration management, and the installation of irrigation systems.

The company has extensive experience in landscaping parks, boulevards, playgrounds, sports fields, school, hospitals, and other commercial buildings.

One specific project that stands out is the Kananaskis Golf Course flood restoration from 2015 to 2017 where the team was able to supply and install 160 acres of high-quality Kentucky Bluegrass sod.

“This project consisted of the restoration of the 36-hole golf course that was completely damaged by floods that year,” recalls Steven.

A member of the Lethbridge Construction Association for 20 years, he says they joined to connect with others and to stay informed with the industry’s latest standards and developments.

“We have also been able to utilize several useful resources



*The Bos team restored the Kananaskis Golf Course following a flood and installed 160 acres of high-quality Kentucky Bluegrass sod.
Photo courtesy of Bos Scapes.*

through the association, as well as gain recognition and enhance our industry reputation.”

As for what the future holds for the company over the next three to five years, Steven doesn’t hesitate.

“We will continue to offer high-quality products and excellent service to all of our current and future customers. We look forward to adapting and growing with any changes that may arise in the industry.” ▲

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Westcor builds community and opportunity



Westcor Construction's presence in Lethbridge has evolved significantly since they first ventured into the region.

Above: Westcor Construction is recognized for their collaborative approach and have built strong partnerships that have culminated in noteworthy projects such as the Buffalo Grace Manor Supportive Living Centre in Garry Station.

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2024 marks a milestone for Westcor as we proudly open our new office in Lethbridge — a strategic move rooted in our long-standing relationship with the city and surrounding communities. With over a decade of successful projects in the area, this new office not only signifies our commitment to the local market, but also reinforces our dedication to enhancing community through impactful construction and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Our presence in Lethbridge has evolved significantly since we first ventured into the region. Recognized for our collaborative approach, we have built strong partnerships that have culminated in noteworthy projects such

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The “Westcor Way” — our commitment to a People-First philosophy — drives every project and relationship.

as the Buffalo Grace Manor Supportive Living Centre in Garry Station, multiple projects in the Chinook Regional Hospital, and other key infrastructure endeavours. These initiatives underscore an integral aspect of our core philosophy: that our work goes beyond buildings to strengthen community fabrics and provide lasting value to the communities that have helped shape who we are today.

The “Westcor Way” — our commitment to a People-First philosophy — drives every project and relationship. This philosophy has guided our operations, emphasizing respect, collaboration, continuous improvement, and service. It’s not just about meeting deadlines and budgets; it’s about delivering lasting value to the communities where we work.

Celebrating our 20th year, we have been actively involved in over 20 community initiatives and acts of kindness, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to social responsibility. Our new Lethbridge office is poised to be a hub for expanding these efforts, further embedding us within the fabric of southern Alberta.

As we look forward, Westcor remains dedicated to pioneering Lean construction practices and enhancing client experiences through our innovative Client Experience Framework. Our new Lethbridge location is more than an office—it’s a commitment to build a better community, aligning with the Westcor Way.

To everyone who has supported our journey and contributed to our story, your role in our narrative is invaluable. Together, we will continue to build not just structures, but a better world. ▲



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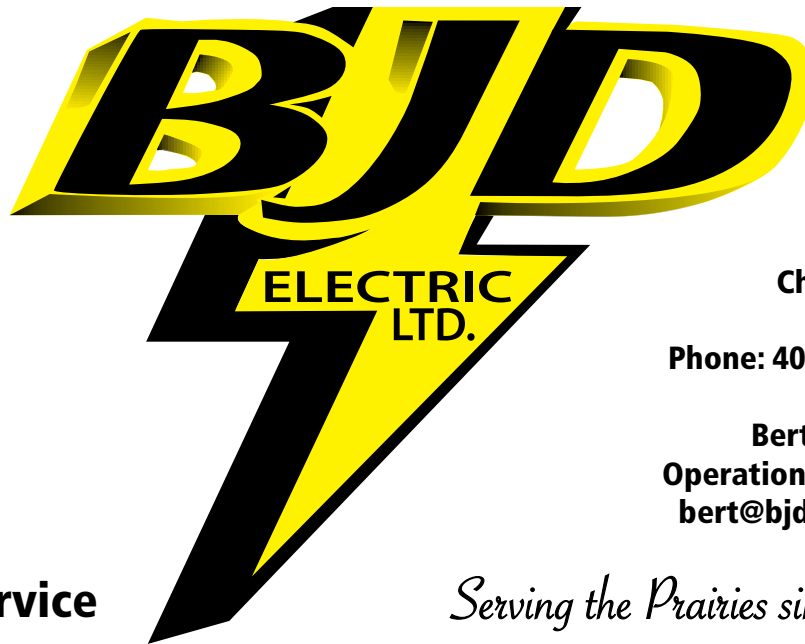


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