

Arrow Construction celebrates 25 years

Building to last starts with having a solid foundation. It is a requirement in construction that has served Arrow Construction Products Limited well as they've developed over the past 25 years. Arrow has served the construction industry in Atlantic Canada since 1979.

The company started with a single warehouse in Fredericton, N.B. with sales offices in Moncton, N.B. and Halifax, N.S. In 1980 a branch was opened in Moncton followed by Dartmouth, N.S. a year later. In 1983 a branch was opened in

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

"The foundation of our business is representing industry leading manufacturers, promotion of innovative products/systems and a customer service commitment that includes proper use, handling and application methods," says company chair George Peppin. "These were the goals we set in our early years and they remain our guidelines today.

In the early years Arrow focused on products used in concrete for civil applications such as bridges and overpasses.



George Peppin

Another major focus area was introducing single-ply roofing membranes to the Atlantic Provinces. These product areas are still major components of the company's product line. However industry demand and environmental controls have broadened the focus into many other markets. The protection of the environment as well as corrosion control on concrete and steel surfaces has broadened Arrow's concentration on new construction to restoration and rehabilitation.

Arrow's sales and technical staff have more than 200 years

of combined experience with the company. "Our continued success rests on the shoulders of our employees," says Edgar Goguen, company president. "Arrow's staff are continually being kept up to date on product advancements and product training either by in-house seminars or by training at manufacturer's facilities. Trade shows and conferences are attended regularly to keep up to date in this industry. Our people also take an active role in industry associations which keeps them abreast of industry requirements."

"We see an interesting conflict in looking back on our growth and the changes during the past 25 years," Peppin says. "Our company still represents similar products from the first supplier we established in 1979 and we are still selling to the same customers 25 years later. The first employee hired by Arrow is still there to service you and so is the second one! It gives some meaning to the saying, 'The more things change, the more they stay the same.' A lot has changed, yet the foundation of our business is on solid ground."

Lafarge supplies concrete for Colson Cove power plant renovation

By Lynne Wells
Contributing Writer

Construction began in late December 2002 on the Colson Cove Refurbishment Project in New Brunswick and continues to this day. In that time Lafarge has supplied more than 42,000 cubic metres of concrete for the project, with another few hundred cubic metres of concrete to be placed before the project is completed later this year.

Joel Harris was Lafarge's on-site project manager. He says the project often required such huge concrete volumes that not only was a portable, on-site ready mix plant operating around the clock, but also Lafarge's other New Brunswick ready mix plants were heavily involved.

"There were times when the on-site

portable plant couldn't keep up with the sheer volume of concrete required for a given aspect of the project," he says. "That's when we called in trucks from Saint John, Moncton, Sussex and/or Fredericton. We were able to handle about 90 per cent of the concrete requirements from the on-site plant with our seven trucks, but there were times when we needed another dozen trucks from other plants for some of the biggest pours."

One pour in particular sticks in Harris' mind. "We poured concrete 24-hours-a-day for four days straight. We poured 5,000 cubic metres of concrete in those four days."

Colson Cove was a 1,050 megawatt (MW) power plant burning heavy oil. It was first constructed in the 1970s just outside Saint John, N.B. It's currently the subject of some controversy regarding its proposed

Ormulsion fuel source.

NB Power recognized the need to upgrade the plant to satisfy stricter environmental requirements and preserve reliable power generation up to 2,030 MW, so it launched plans to refurbish the plant in the late 1990s. The \$750 million project, due to be completed in late 2004, employed more than 1,400 people at peak construction times.

"It's a huge project and presented quite the learning opportunity for many people, including me," Harris says. He recalls one particular facet of the project—the construction of the 600-foot tall windbreak for the chimney—that was a challenge. In the summer of 2003, they started to stack pour the windbreak. It took four months, pouring every night for six days a week to complete the windbreak.

The crew would set the jump form during the day and pour concrete starting in the early

evening, going until about midnight. They would wait 16 hours to let the concrete set and then move the jump form up the stack and pour again.

"NB Power didn't want us to pour during the day because of the safety concerns associated with the elevated height of the structure," Harris says.

The concrete mixes used varied according to need, but Harris says the majority of concrete was Type 10-SF with fly ash, water reducers, Micro Air and plasticizers.

"We didn't have any problems despite the sometimes hectic schedules," Harris says. "It was an excellent job to work on. NB Power was excellent to work with."

Lafarge's on-site ready mix plant was dismantled last fall. "We've been able to meet the concrete needs since then from our Saint John plant," Harris says.



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CSC Atlantic seeking executive nominations

By Lynne Wells
Contributing Writer

CSC Atlantic, the local regional chapter of Construction Specifications Canada (CSC), is seeking nominations for a new executive and slate of officers. Nomination forms are available from Chapter Chair Matt Brunt at J.W. Bird and Co. Ltd., phone 902-468-2884 or e-mail mbrunt@birdstairs.ca.

Specifically, the local chapter is looking for a chapter director for the corporate board, a chair, a vice-chair, a specifications writer officer, an architectural officer, an engineering officer, a marketing officer, a trade contractor officer, a manufacturer/supplier officer and a general contractor officer. Deadline for nominations is May 28. This is a chance to take part in an organization that has

worked for 50 years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the construction industry!

The CSC is a national, multi-disciplinary, non-profit association dedicated to the improvement of communication, contract documentation and technical information in the design and construction industry.

The Atlantic Chapter membership stands at about 60, up 10 per cent from last year. New members are welcome. Nationally, the CSC has more than 1,600 members, drawn from specification writers, architects, engineers, building technologists, interior designers, contractors, construction trades personnel and associations, design and inspection authorities, government agencies and ministries, manufacturers, suppliers and distributors.

The organization seeks to enhance the quality of the design and management aspects of construction activity in an effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the industry as a whole. The CSC uses publications, education and professional development programs — including the nationally recognized and industry accepted Certified Technical Representative (CTR), Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA) and Registered Specification Writer (RSW) training programs — to achieve its goals.

The CSC is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The conference will be held in Toronto from May 26 to 30. See the conference Web site www.conference2004.ca for details. All members are urged to attend the anniversary conference.

Dominion Ash announces commercialization of technology

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than 50 per cent of the electricity generated in the U.S. James MacLean, president of Dominion Ash, says, "We're enthusiastic about seeing the first commercial MCBTM unit go into operation. Acceptance of pilot-scale test results on the carbon removal technology has paved the way forward to further development of MCBTM technology.

"Recycling combustion coal products into concrete with this process results in a net reduction of CO₂, a recognized Green House Gas, and avoids the landfilling of this valuable engineer-

ing product. The heat generated from this process is recovered for return to the power station or other adjacent industries. Recovery of previously landfilled material is also possible."

The first commercial MCBTM unit has a target operational date in the second quarter of 2005.

Headquartered in Fredericton, N.B., Dominion Ash provides complete fly ash solutions to coal-fired power plants, specializing in microwave technology. Dominion Ash is currently the largest supplier of quality coal fly ash imported by rail into Eastern Canada for use in ready mixed concrete.