



The Crown Plaza Hotel chain, which recently acquired the landmark Fredericton Lord Beaverbrook Hotel (at right), decided to give the aging structure a major facelift this year. Preparation of the façade first required most of the wall area to be shotcreted (see above). APRMCA member Blanchard Ready Mix Ltd. manufactured the shotcrete materials at its plant in Dunlop/Bathurst, N.B., and they were applied to the hotel by Atlantic Underground Services, Riverview, N.B. for general contractor Jones Masonry of Harvey Station, N.B. Blanchard Ready Mix began specializing in the manufacture of dry shotcrete materials in 1992 to fill the demand of the mining industry in Northern New Brunswick.



## INNOVATIONS IN FREDERICTON

By Stephen Clare

Renovations at The Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in the heart of downtown Fredericton are now complete and the city-centre location looks better-than-ever, says one of the key players in the reconstruction efforts.

"The Crowne Plaza project was quite unique," says Barry Osmun, marketing director for the Blanchard Group, Allardville, New Brunswick. "Formerly the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, it underwent an immense facelift under the new ownership of the Halifax-based Pacrim Group."

The generations-old building that sits on the banks of the picturesque Saint John River recently saw changes to both the hotel's interior and exterior.

The revamped accommodations now fea-

ture 168 elegantly appointed guestrooms with 12 deluxe suites, innovative sleep amenities, quiet zones, along with exclusive services such as the Hotel's 24-hour business centre, extended room service hours, saltwater pool and hot tub and a superb steamroom, health/fitness centre and spa facilities.

Local firms supplied much of the contracting work, with sub-contracting jobs going to area electricians, plumbers and others for the duration of the months-long reconstruction efforts.

The tender to examine and revise the building's crumbling façade and foundations, was awarded to general contractor Jones Masonry, Harvey Station, NB. Blanchard Ready Mix, located in Dunlop near Bathurst, NB, and part of the Blanchard Group, proposed a system of dry shotcrete to coat the walls. Osmun says the task of reworking the foundations was not only challenging, but provided his team with the opportunity to become creative in their efforts to supply the appropriate product mix.

"The building was old and consisted of concrete walls with a stone facing," Osmun explains. "When the contractor removed the stone he found many defects on the wall, including cracks and deterioration. Fixing these defects the conventional way (i.e. filling them with mortar using a trowel) would prove to be very costly and time consuming. Jones Masonry asked us if we could provide an alternative.

"Working with an experienced, ACI certified shotcrete applicator that we are very comfortable with – Atlantic Underground Services of Riverview, NB – we knew this system and our product would be faster, more economical and provide the structural integrity required.

"Our system was accepted by the contractor and engineers and the process was completed within five weeks," Osmun continues. "Because of the proximity to other buildings and pedestrians, the building needed to be tarped to prevent the dust and rebound from the shotcrete from causing any inconvenience.

"In the end, the project turned out to be highly successful and the client was very happy. In fact, our product is now under consideration for several more similar projects throughout the region."

ADMIXTURES for Concrete  
Jennifer Walsh

# GRACE

A Premier Global Specialty Chemicals and Materials Company

41 Logan Lane Windsor Junction , NS B2T 1G6  
e-mail: [jennifer.j.walsh@grace.com](mailto:jennifer.j.walsh@grace.com)

1827251



**Cement Association of Canada**  
Association Canadienne du Ciment

**Investing in local industry**  
**Supporting local customers**

**LAFARGE**  
NORTH AMERICA

**ST.LAWRENCE**  
CEMENT

1827253