

winter 2009

explorer

Built on Brotherhood

Points North Freight Forwarding grows with the North

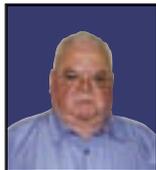
In a company that has seen continuing changes since it began, three factors have remained constant - meeting customer needs, taking the risks required to grow and the Eikel name.



Andy Eikel



George Eikel



Norm Eikel

When Points North Freight Forwarding was incorporated in 1984, the ownership was split between Dawn Air and Nipawin Air. Dawn Air owners included George and Andy Eikel, both Norcan Air veterans. Points North president George Eikel recalls, "when we started times were hard in the north and it wasn't the best time to be in the aviation business. Here we were in the north and in aviation. But we saw a need we could fill and we believed in the future."

The first step was the company's facility at Points North Landing. Andy Eikel recalls the location as "just bush, trees, rock and a little lake. But we knew if we moved to the end of the road we could build something that could grow." The resulting warehousing and distribution facility fit the Government's vision and saw solid support from the mining industry.

Facilities at Points North Landing grew through the late 1980's and early 1990's. The airstrip was lengthened twice and accommodation capacity was increased. The company also completed a 12,360 square foot hangar.

Another important addition was the third Eikel brother. Norm Eikel left the Federal Business Development Bank to oversee the company's finance and administration.

Points North continued to grow and diversify through partnerships and its own investments. Points North Construction was formed in 1994 with Graham Construction. In 1995, Cogema became part owner of the airstrip at Points North Landing.

In the late 1990's, a major new aircraft investment, a changing northern economy and alternatives to air freight led to major financial challenges. In 2000, Points North chose to negotiate with creditors under the Companies Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), Canada's equivalent to Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.

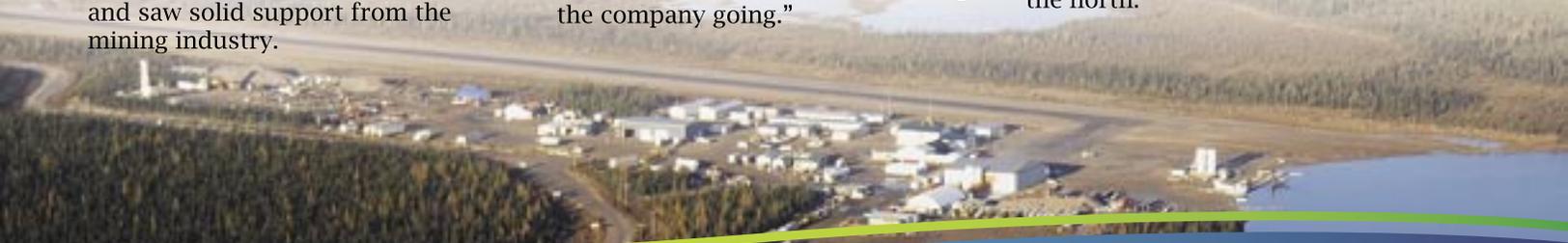
"I'm very proud of the way we hung in together and fought for the company" says George Eikel. "I'm not sure we would have made it if we weren't brothers. We could count on each other to do whatever it took to keep the company going."

Points North has continued to expand since emerging from the CCAA process, forming Sandroad Express with Ridsdale Transport and Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd. with ABDLP and Graham Construction. Customer demand has led to growing fuel and accommodation business. Retail lumber sales are the latest response to changing customer needs. In 2006, the Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership acquired 50% ownership in Points North Freight Forwarding, providing capital to support future expansion.

The Eikels credit much of Points North's success to their relationship as brothers and business partners. "We work together, we relax together ... and we all feel a tie to the north that goes way beyond business," says George.

Today, a new generation of Eikels are making their mark on the company. Andy's son Mark and Norm's son Blaine both hold senior positions in Points North.

While none of the brothers will guess what directions the company might take in the next 25 years, it's a safe bet that the Eikel name and Points North will be linked for generations to come. As Norm Eikel says, "We feel we've been and will continue to be an important part of the infrastructure of the north."



Message from ABDLP Board, Chair

One of the things that impressed me the most about the residents of the Athabasca Basin is their ability to be innovative. I have experienced first hand and have heard stories of those who are on a caribou hunt and had their snow machines break down, yet they used innovative thinking to either fix their machines or find a way to survive the sub-zero weather. I've seen home repairs that are made to work without adequate resources or any formal training. I've heard stories of falling through the ice and then using gasoline and a spark plug to produce a life saving fire for warmth. The Athabasca people can live off the land and are able to adapt to some of the harshest climate that this earth has to offer.

The Athabasca Region is full of opportunities. There are two very different worlds that are merging. The lakes are full of fish and the virgin land and forests are full of wildlife. These are the things that the Elders hold dear and along with them are the culture and traditions that are handed down to the youth. On the other hand there are the minerals and resources that are sought after by the rest of the world. These provide opportunities for employment and wealth for the Athabasca residents. We have a duty to ensure there is a balance.

Our greatest strength in the Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership is the ability of the seven communities to remain united. We have the good sense to make sure that our decisions, as owners, are unanimous and are for the betterment of all, stakeholders and residents alike. Through strategic development of our economy and our greatest natural resource, our people, we have the ability to produce a region that is the shining light of this province and this country. I look forward to the challenges and the opportunities that lie before us. We are truly blessed!

Glen Strong
ABDLP, Chairman



ABDLP Companies Featured on Wings Over Canada

Last August, the film crew from Wings Over Canada journeyed to Points North to capture footage for the award-winning television show. The episode would highlight the companies, Points North Freight Forwarding and Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd. as well as the sights and sounds of Saskatchewan's Athabasca region. The film crew spent three days covering the area and interviewing the management of these two companies. Upon leaving, the crew said they had great footage and were anticipating it to make for excellent viewing.



The episode has just finished being edited and produced and will soon air on television stations in Vancouver and parts of Alberta. It will air in Saskatchewan and other parts of North America over the coming months, so watch for it in your local TV listings.

Wings Over Canada has been seen on over 60 broadcast outlets in Canada and the USA. Now entering its eleventh season, Wings Over Canada is a series produced by Best Entertainment Corp, a boutique production company based in downtown Vancouver, BC.

Team Drilling Gets to Work

Team Drilling Limited Partnership was established in April, 2008 with the objective of providing premier surface and underground drilling services to companies throughout Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world. Ten months later, this Saskatchewan based company finds itself with many drills on the go and great potential still before them.

The limited partnership is currently drilling for Hathor and Cameco, and will begin drilling for AREVA in February, 2009. Team Drilling has also been awarded their first underground drilling project for Diavik Diamond Mine located north of Yellowknife, NWT. The program is for two years, drilling high pressure dewatering holes and exploration.

President and General Manager, Robert Fleming says "we are very pleased with our progress to date and our continued focus is working

with clients to ensure we provide a long-term quality service that is safe and respects the environment".

Fleming is part of a strong management team which includes George Pousseault (Contracts Manager), Sylvain Brisson (Underground Operations Manager), and Alan Lamy (Surface Operations Manager). Together, the management has nearly 100 years combined experience in the drilling industry.

Team Drilling is a company built on knowledge, experience, integrity, and safety...and it is these key strengths that will firmly take them into the future.

For more information on Team Drilling, visit their website at www.teamdrilling.com or contact them at (306) 955-8326 (TEAM).





Delivering Sport, Culture and Recreation to the Athabasca

Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership and Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd. are both major contributors to the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District (Athabasca Region). With donations annually going to this association, these companies are able to give back to the communities that form their ownership.

The Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District's (NSCRD) mandate is to provide programs and initiatives to the residents of Northern Saskatchewan. It is their vision that all residents in Northern Saskatchewan value sport, culture and recreation as an essential aspect of life. They strive to deliver access to diverse opportunities within these areas and to enhance the economic, capacity building and



social well being for people and communities in the north.

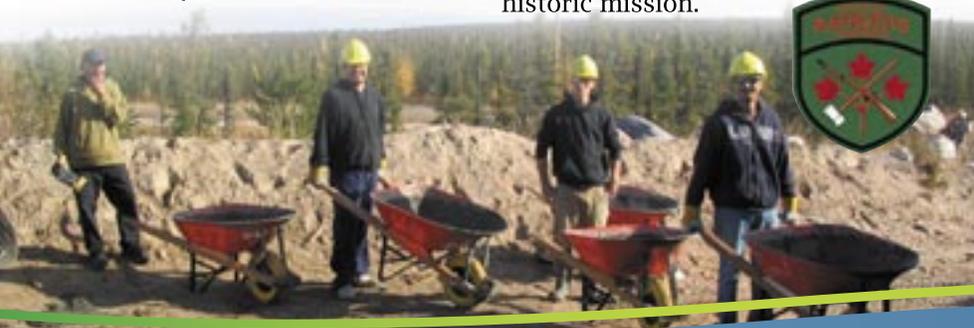
Over the past year, ABDLP and Points Athabasca have assisted with various NSCRD programs including Northern Spirits, Wrestling Coaches Clinic, Canoe Certification, and the purchase of Track and Field equipment. With their on-going donations, these two companies look forward to all the various programs they will be involved with that will continue to bring sport, culture and recreation to the people of the Athabasca.

PACL Lends a Helping Hand

Wollaston Lake Arena Pour: This past fall, Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd. helped co-ordinate the arena pour for the Wollaston Lake Arena. The community was in need of a 250 Meter slab floor, and PACL jumped in to supply the equipment and expertise needed to complete the job. Cameco and AREVA supplied material and the Wollaston Lake community supplied the labour. It was a great project and Points Athabasca was proud to be part of it. The project will be completed in the spring and then Wollaston Lake can begin enjoying their facility.

Supporting the Rangers: This February, Points Athabasca was assisting in the Athabasca again by providing accommodations for about 70 Rangers from the Canadian Military. The Rangers are part of a winter military operation that started on Vancouver Island and takes them across Northern Canada to Churchill. Traveling by snowmobile, they are engaging with various Ranger units along the way.

Points Athabasca housed the Rangers in their Points North Hangar building and were very happy to be a part of this historic mission.



CEO's Message

Welcome to the first Newsletter from the Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership. We have gone through some very exciting times in the last several years and have experienced significant growth in all areas of our business. We are not immune to the global economic issues; however, we do know that ABDLP will be stronger regardless of the challenges ahead. We have committed shareholders, board members, partners, management and employees who want to provide exceptional services to our customers and in the long-term, this focus will allow us to continue to succeed.

The bi-annual ABDLP Newsletter is our opportunity to share a snapshot of our company and its holdings to our employees, partners, communities, industry, and Government. Whether it's sharing a story about Philip Laban, expanding on the Brotherhood at Points North Freight Forwarding, or sharing our involvement in the Athabasca community....we'd like for this to be an opportunity to inform and entertain.

While each of our seven companies reacts, in their own way, to the current economic situation, they each are focused on the task at hand. We have good management in place and committed employees. Along with our holdings, Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership is looking at the opportunities that have or will arise during these times and use them to strengthen ourselves further.

We at ABDLP feel we have an interesting story to share, and it is one that continues to have chapters added to it. Our Newsletter is an occasion to put environmental conditions aside for a minute, and focus on the pieces that will take us into the future.

Geoff Gay
ABDLP CEO





Feel the Adrenaline Rush

An interview with Phillip Laban, Athabasca Basin Security (Cigar Lake Mine)

The Cigar Lake Mine is the largest undeveloped high grade uranium deposit in the world, located in the uranium rich Athabasca Basin of northern Saskatchewan.

About 40 km inside the eastern margin of the Athabasca Basin Region, the project area is characterized by a gently rolling terrain covered by 30 to 50 meters of overburden, taiga forests and lakes.

Not far away, nestled on the shores of the Lake from where it takes its name, Black Lake can be found. Black Lake is a place where excellent fishing and game resources abound....and it is the home of Athabasca Basin Security's, Phillip Laban.

Born and raised in the community, Phillip is proud to call Black Lake home. "The best thing about living here is the sanity it provides", says Laban. Offering the complete peacefulness that a city dweller just couldn't understand. It is here where Laban also takes part in a variety of sports, including his favorite ... hockey. When

not at work, Phillip can often be found hunting, fishing, or teaching his son all that he has to offer.

Phillip has been working with Athabasca Basin Security as a full time Industrial Security Officer (ISO) since September 2007 and enjoys the camaraderie that comes along with his work. "I work with a great bunch of people and I love my job".

But the best thing Phillip likes about his position is the excitement and adrenaline that runs through him when called to action. "I like to feel the adrenaline rush". Athabasca Basin Security prides itself on providing trust to clients and building strong relationships, and Phillip definitely delivers.

Phillip Laban is a passionate employee, a proud dad, and a strong believer in his community and people. Phillip sums up his days by saying he has a "friendly place to work, beautiful landscape to live, and a peaceful life."

Athabasca Happenings

Athabasca Roads Update

The Fond du Lac Ice Road opened Jan 22, 2009. Current stats: 25" ice minimum and max. vehicle weight allowed 62,500 lbs or 27,000 kg.

The Fond du Lac Overland Road also opened on Jan. 22, 2009. Due to the extreme temperature changes, there have been issues with muskegs seeping and water on road. The Road is rough but is undergoing improvements.

Uranium City Road started construction on Jan 26, 2009 with start of ice measurements. The ice measurements will be ongoing as the ice continues to be cleared.

#905 Seasonal Road is overall in excellent shape with vehicles driving from Points North to Stony Rapids in 3 1/2 hours.

Official status of the Athabasca roads is available on the Highways Hotline. Call toll free: 1-888-335-7623

February Festivals in the Athabasca

February is a time for celebration in the Athabasca as many of the communities hold their annual winter festival. Hatchet Lake, Black Lake, and Stony Rapids festivals take place during the week of February 16th to 22nd. Dog races, snowmobile races, drag races, King and Queen events, bannock making, tea boiling, and trap setting are just part of what you'll find.

AEDTC Board Welcomes Glenda Mercredi

The Athabasca Economic Development and Training Corporation (AEDTC) is pleased to welcome Glenda Mercredi to their Board of Directors as the representative from Wollaston Lake. Glenda has a business administration background and has been a long time employee of Hatchet Lake Economic Development. Glenda is also a newly elected Council member and Chair of the Wollaston Lake Housing Committee.



Newsletters are published February and September.

If you would like to be included in the ABDLP Newsletter distribution, please send your name and contact information to newsletter@athabascabasin.ca.