



fall 2011

explorer

Sometimes Water And Electricity Do Mix

If we think about the people who make sure our homes have a clean, reliable water supply, electricians aren't the first folks who spring to mind. But Flyer Electric is playing a key role in providing a clean, reliable water supply to Fond du Lac's new 50 lot subdivision ... and the rest of the community as well.

The company was the winning bidder to provide the wiring, instrumentation and controls for a major upgrade to Fond du Lac's existing water treatment plant. The large, complex project included both installing new wiring and upgrading existing wiring throughout the plant. Setting up a sophisticated system of controls and instrumentation was also part of the job.

The enlarged and enhanced water treatment plant compliments recently upgraded sewage facilities. Together, these new facilities provide critical infrastructure for a much-needed 50 lot subdivision and will ensure that the community will be able to meet current demands and accommodate future growth.

Large, complicated projects are nothing new to Flyer Electric. Since Bob Cockwill opened Flyer Electric three decades ago, the business has grown steadily to become one of Saskatchewan's most dependable, fastest growing commercial and industrial electrical contractors. With a reputation built on a continuing commitment to excellence, expertise, quality and value, Flyer Electric is a valued partner in the commercial construction sector throughout Saskatchewan.

Despite this continuing growth, the company has kept its headquarters in Birch Hills and maintained strong connections to the north. "We do a lot of work in the north and we like to think we have a really good reputation there. We do a lot of mine-site work and a lot of work with ABDLP companies like Points Athabasca, so we understand how things work and how to get things done right," says Flyer Electric Project Manager Terry Tessier. "We may be working all over Saskatchewan, but we think of the north as our home quarter ... the place you always want to do your best for and never want to take for granted."


Flyer Electric's reputation, relationship with the north and solid, growing business base made the buyout of the company by ABDLP earlier this year a logical, sound business decision for all concerned. "We are very, very pleased with the buyout," said Tessier. "It was the next logical step for us and made sense for ABDLP. It was an excellent fit and the transition was smooth and easy ... everything just fell into place. The change in ownership will provide even more opportunities and more growth."

The booming Saskatchewan economy and increasing activity in the resource sector, combined with the company's solid reputation, proven expertise and established relationships in the mining and construction industries mean the company's opportunities will continue to grow. Wherever the future takes the company, Flyer Electric will remain a business with a proud history and a bright future in northern Saskatchewan.



www.athabascabasin.ca

Message from ABDLP Board, Chair



Like all of us who live in Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake First Nation, I will never forget watching the forest fire approach with frightening speed and waiting for aircraft to arrive, knowing there was no other escape.

Yet what I remember most

was people's courage and concern for others. Courage that let us face the threat of that fire without panic. Concern that our most vulnerable community members be safely gone before anyone thought of leaving.

Today I see a strong, proud community that is ready to move forward – and I believe that same spirit is growing in the ABDLP and throughout the region. Positive business moves like the

purchase of Flyer Electric and growth in our existing businesses, point to a bright future. From our business leaders and partners to ten newly-graduated Heavy Equipment Operators in the Athabasca Basin, everyone has a role to play in building that future. I look forward to working together and doing my part.

Anne Robillard ABDLP, Chair

Athabasca Basin Security Connects With World-Leading Corporations

Young companies can often be tempted to cut corners and go after every type of work that's available. That wasn't the case for Athabasca Basin Security.

The decision to specialize in providing flexible, custom-tailored security services to mine sites and large industrial facilities has paid off for Athabasca Basin Security in a big way. The company's client list reads like a who's who of Saskatchewan resource industries, including Cameco, AREVA, Mosaic, Conoco Philips, Quantum Murray and, most recently, BHP Billiton.

The addition of BHP Billiton to the client roster connects the company with one of the world's largest resource companies. Athabasca Basin Security has been contracted to provide security services at BHP Billiton's Jansen project. "We were thrilled to be contracted to provide security at Jansen," says Athabasca Basin Security CEO Ron Hyggen Jr. "As Jansen moves from construction to production, we will have the opportunity to show BHP Billiton what we can do and build a relationship with a world leader."

The BHP Billiton contract is a result of a commitment to planning and managing for growth that continues today.

Athabasca Basin Security has just completed a new strategic plan that will focus the company's efforts for the next five years. "This plan defines goals, objectives and projects for the next five years. It sets measurable targets and time frames. It defines the resources that will be needed to get the job done," says Hyggen. "It's a big commitment, but we have dedicated, talented people and we're ready to back them up." Today, Athabasca Basin Security is one of the few Canadian security providers to have achieved ISO 9001 certification. This designation assures clients and customers that the company's operating practices have achieved an International Standard that is recognized world-wide.

A recent partnership with Alberta First Nations company Bigstone Industrial Medical Services allows Athabasca Basin Security to provide Paramedic and EMT services in Saskatchewan and Alberta. A contract to provide paramedic services at Quantum Murray's Gunnar mine site operation is already in place.

"We've come a long way since 2002, but we've just scratched the surface of what we can be," says Hyggen.

Wollaston: "Life goes on as it did before."

For people in the north, being isolated is nothing new. Neither are forest fires. But when the two combined this June to threaten Wollaston Lake, the residents had to face an incredible series of challenges.

The fire, which started southwest of the Wollaston Lake airstrip, spread with surprising speed. In its first day it grew to 500 hectares and covered 4,400 hectares at its peak. With road access cut off and ice still on the lake, an air lift was the only way to get nearly 1,200 residents to safety.

The evacuation was a long and difficult journey. Helicopters and small planes made repeated trips to Points North Landing, where larger aircraft took evacuees to LaRonge. Most ended their journey with a four hour bus ride to Saskatoon.

While some were housed in hotels, most stayed in large public buildings such as a civic centre and an indoor soccer facility. The strain on the people of Wollaston was enormous. Given a large, unfamiliar city, the lack of activity and everyone's uncertainty about when they could go home and what they

might return to, evacuees showed tremendous courage and spirit.

A week after the evacuation, nearly everyone was back safely in their homes. Remarkably, though the fire raged right up to the edge of the community, there was virtually no damage to homes, businesses or property. Even the cemetery was spared from the flames.

Like most of the people of Wollaston, Terri Daniels is taking the events of the summer in stride. "It's just one of those things that happens in the north," she laughs. "Life goes on as it did before." While she acknowledges that the evacuation was a difficult time, especially for older residents, she simply takes it in stride like most of those in the community.

While no one in Wollaston will forget the first week of June in 2011, people are doing what people in the north have always done – meet challenges as they come, put what happened behind them and get on with their lives.

Points Athabasca Donates \$120,000 to Northern Spirits

On Monday, May 9, 2011, Points Athabasca Contracting Limited Partnership held its annual client appreciation night at the Remai Arts Centre in Saskatoon.

In past years, the company has included a fund-raising component in the event, but this year they significantly raised the bar and made a donation of \$120,000 to the cause.

Points Athabasca has committed to donating \$40,000 per year to Northern Spirits for the next three years for a total of \$120,000. The program will now be known as the Northern Spirits Showcase, presented by Points Athabasca.

The Northern Spirits Showcase is a program that enables northern youth to learn and develop their visual and performing arts. "This is a fantastic program for Northern youth to be part of, so ensuring its future delivery is very important to Points Athabasca," says Points Athabasca Manager Brad Darbyshire. "We are extremely proud to be part of this event and to give northern Kids the opportunities they deserve."

The Points Athabasca Appreciation Night is held for the purpose of acknowledging the industry leaders that support growth in the Athabasca basin, and Saskatchewan as a whole. Leaders from northern communities, as well as mining, exploration, and land development companies, were in attendance.



On the Road to Success

Ten happy, confident, Certified Heavy Equipment Operators from the Athabasca Basin gathered for a class photo on graduation day. July 29, 2011, marked the last day of an extraordinary course that merged challenging and rigorous technical theory with five weeks of hands-on heavy equipment operating experience. The final two weeks of the course provided the ultimate test - two weeks of actual work improving a ten kilometer section of the Athabasca Road.

The students earned their place in the course on merit and have worked as a team from the outset to help one another succeed. Congratulations to Belinda Tsannie, Burton Pacquette, Boniface Kasakan, Charles Denechezhe, Reynold Adam, Georgina Besskaystare, Albert Thorassie, David Harry Dzeylion, Donald Robillard and Steve Powder (Jr) on your outstanding achievement.

Funding for the Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Course was provided by Northern Career Quest, Northlands College, Prince Albert Grand Council (Dene) and Athabasca Labour Services. High Velocity Equipment Training was responsible for course content and delivery.

All ten graduates had the opportunity to train on six pieces of equipment: excavator, dozer, front-end and skid-steer loader, grader and the massive Caterpillar 777 heavy haul truck.

The road building exercise on the Athabasca Road, organized by Bart Smith of Athabasca Basin Road Services and Glen Strong of Points Athabasca Contracting, was also a major success. Road Services Coordinator Victor Fern supervised the students during the exercise.

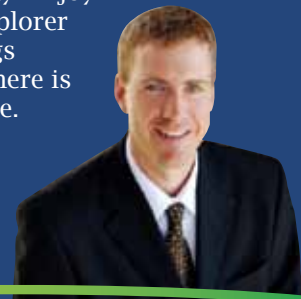
CEO's Message

Our ABDLP newsletter (The Explorer) is presented to you each September and February, so with two issues per year it's difficult to capture all the news and events that happen throughout the year. The purpose of The Explorer is to give a snapshot of the Athabasca and highlight the forward progress that the region is experiencing. The

Athabasca is impacted by events and happenings from around the world, so there is certainly no shortage of news on the region's economy and its people. The Athabasca region, its people and companies will continue on a daily basis to pursue consistent forward progress and excellence....and we'll continue sharing these stories

with you along the way. Enjoy this edition of The Explorer - there are great things happening now and there is so much more to come.

Geoff Gay
CEO



Athabasca's Economic Future A "Global Bright Light"

For tens of thousands of Saskatchewan radio listeners, Eric Anderson is host of Rawlco Radio's "Prosperity Saskatchewan."

To others who have attended one of his rapid-fire public presentations, he is a powerful public speaker who cuts to the chase and is never boring.

To business leaders and First Nations, he's a highly-valued consultant.

He has lectured at the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business, developed a campaign that led to a Canadian Association of Broadcasters Gold Ribbon Award, and done groundbreaking communications work for the Prince Albert Grand Council on common misconceptions of First Nations treaties and taxation. "

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Anderson honed his skills with Masters Degrees in both Music and Science. Add successful, real-world experience in both areas and he is uniquely qualified to bridge the gap between the creative and scientific worlds.

Anderson sees "Prosperity Saskatchewan" as a way to inform the entire province of the benefits stemming from natural resources.

"The process begins with explaining the benefits from our northern developments, which are largely based on the support and work of northerners, to people in southern Saskatchewan," he says. Anderson believes that with better education of the matter at hand, requests for regional enhancements such as improved northern infrastructure will reach a more welcoming public.

Anderson adds that "none of this could happen without the support of active, forward-looking organizations like ABDLP. I am very grateful and proud to have ABDLP as one of my sponsors."

Asked what advice he would offer the people of the Athabasca, Anderson immediately zeroed in on education. "Education is critical - it levels the playing-field between all people. Completing grade 12 is critical for job placement. Fortunately, technology can bring educational opportunities to northerners, without the need to travel."

Anderson is extremely positive about the future of the Athabasca. "The world needs more and more food and energy, and that's what Saskatchewan produces. Our uranium exports generate more energy than all of Canada's oil exports. As current fuel sources are depleted and the world's reactor fleet expands, the demand for our uranium will increase significantly."

"In short, the economic future of the Athabasca is not only solid, but one of the global bright-lights."



A profile of Susan Fern-Sorge

As an HR Administrator with Athabasca Labour Services (ALS), Susan Fern-Sorge plays a key role in helping people realize their dreams. Yet it wasn't that long ago that she was reevaluating her own dreams and reconsidering her future.

"I wanted to become a cop when I was younger, but while I was growing up I had a change of direction," Susan says. "I decided I wanted to work in an office environment where I was helping people in my own community to grow and be successful in any area that they chose."

In 2005, knowing that furthering her education was the key to achieving her goals, she chose to improve her education. Her hard work and perseverance paid off when she received her Diploma in Business Administration in December, 2009.

The following month Susan joined ALS as an HR Administrator, a position ideally suited to her objective of helping her people and community. "My favorite part of my job is knowing that I'm helping give the seven northern communities from the Athabasca Region the opportunity to work for us through our training programs or the employment opportunities that arise from our group of companies," she says.

Though Susan's work has taken her to Saskatoon, the north will always be a part of her life. She treasures her memories of growing up in Fond du Lac where she remembers "always spending quality time with my family and friends doing so many different activities ... playing sports or games, fishing, boating, ski-dooing, camping, gathering berries, sewing or learning about my traditional lifestyle and protocols."

Today, this newlywed divides her time between work and family. "I love spending time with my husband Scott, my niece Jenay and my new in-laws every chance I get," she says. Susan plans to continue going home to Fond du Lac at Christmas and in the summer. "All my family is a very important part of my life and I cherish every waking moment with them."

For a list of ABDLP's corporate social responsibility please visit www.athabascabasin.ca.



Watch for our next newsletter - February, 2012.

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