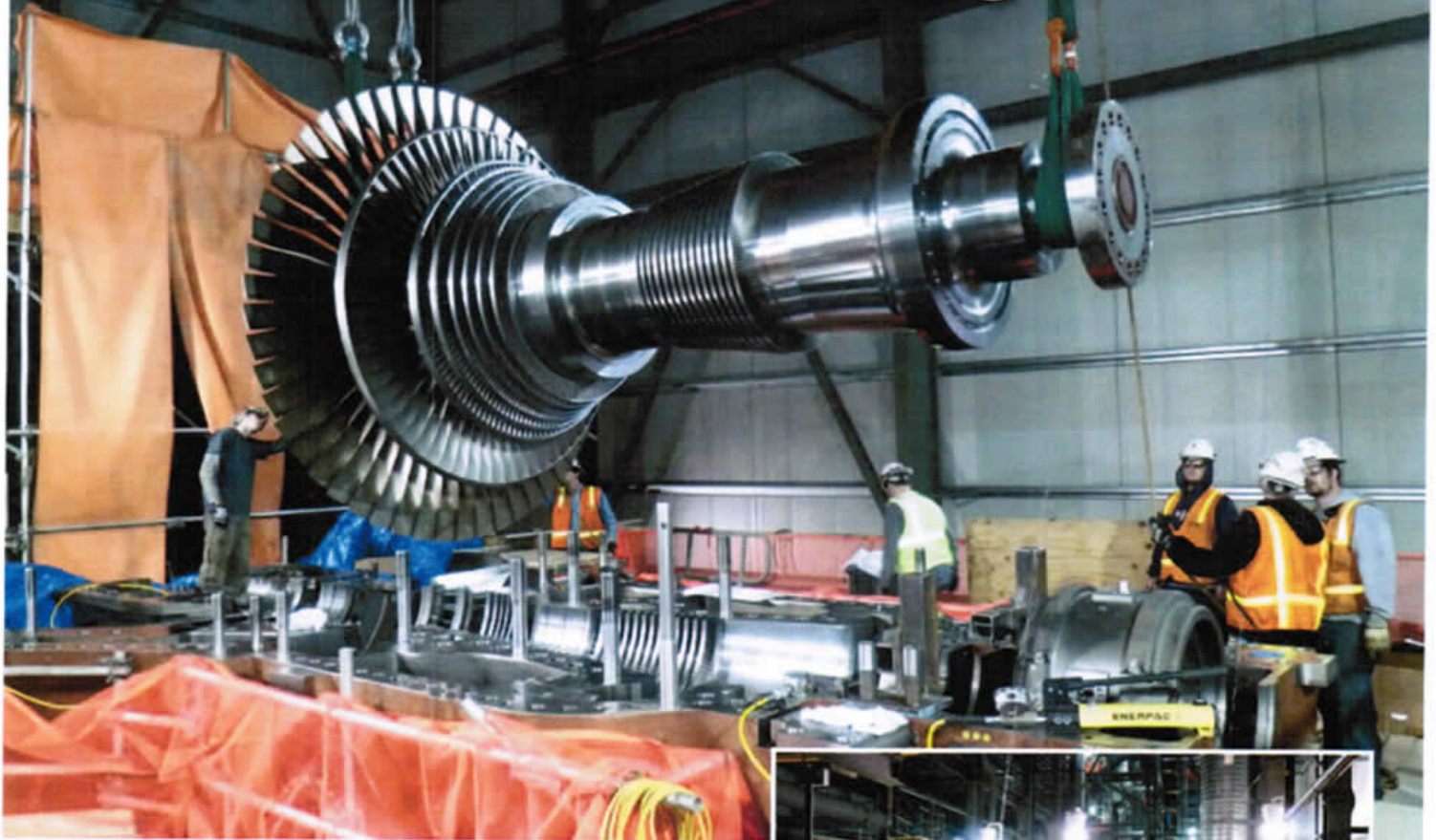


Contractors, trades, and professionals support North Battleford's growth



Canadian Design and Construction Report special feature

North Battleford is experiencing growth on many fronts, supported by local contractors and trades who are pleased to be supporting their community's development.

For example, Lesmeister Construction president Rick Lesmeister has co-ordinated several projects in recent years, including work on Connaught School, the North Battleford Courthouse, a new bus depot, three new office buildings and Hardwood Manor, a private sector 72-bed assisted living complex, which is the first of its kind in the city and one of the largest in Saskatchewan.

"Services to the city are expanding at a steady pace with new condominiums being built and increased commercial space," Lesmeister. People are definitely coming to see what all the growth is about and find out what is happening in town."

Universal Consulting Group Ltd. president Paul Richer says in a province with a population of just over a million people, consultants and trades must find unique ways of doing things to support the growth. Long-lasting and diversified relationships are part of the story. "Our company provides architectural drafting and design services and hires engineering disciplines from around the province to support tenders for projects," he said.

In smaller markets, consultants achieve diversified experience with a solid understanding of local conditions and opportunities. "We could be working on a car wash one day, a hotel the next, and then an industrial shop after that," Richer says. "We, and many of the trades we work with, develop that multi-level experience specialty as a way to keep going and support the variety of activities going on in any economy."

Richer says his company seeks the best value they can from the trades and has a history of relationships and longevity within the community – 27 years – to support this.

One project Richer enjoys recalling is the JayDee Ag Tech building. "JayDee had been renting a space in town so their investment in building their own facility shows a real commitment

to the city," he said. "The location of the build on raw land posed site servicing challenges, which is always the case, but it is exciting to see this expansion for the company and great to see this project for the community."

Lyle V. Schell Construction Management Services Ltd. provided construction management services for the JayDee project. "Projects like this can be challenging with the high demand for skilled labor in Saskatchewan," says company president Lyle V. Schell. "We have qualified skilled personnel and excellent working relationships with the industry trades enabling the company to meet the challenges."

Schell says his company has managed several design-builds and turnkey operations, enabling his employees to develop unique skill sets and a range of experience. The contractor has experience in the food industry (McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Boston Pizza), automotive dealerships (Ford, Chev, Toyota, Honda, Hyundai) as well as institutional projects such as Prairie North Health Region, Living Sky School Division Maintenance and Bus Facility, as well as banks and office buildings.

Schell says successful local businesses establish ties within the community. Solid reputations and experience attract new projects and opportunities, he said.

Bernier Millwork president Marcel Bernier has also contributed to many of the recent projects in North Battleford, including JayDee, Harwood Manor, the new energy centre and several retail expansions.

The millwork manufacturing shop has the ability to adapt to any project or client requirement, he said. "In slower times we would take any job that came along, so we now have the experience and skill sets to tackle anything. It's especially satisfying working locally in North Battleford knowing we are helping develop the resources and services of our community."



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North Battleford offers incentives, support for expansion and new construction

CaDCR special feature

North Battleford is supportive of providing incentives for businesses wishing to develop specific opportunities in the community.

"The city has offered business incentives for local expansions or new construction in North Battleford based on a number of factors," says Denis Lavertu, director of business development. "These have included: type of business or industry, location of business, number of employees, amount of investment, renovation and development and aesthetic appeal. Each case is considered on an individual basis to ensure that the business receives the most effective assistance for their specific development.

Specific residential project incentives are also outlined at the municipal website at http://www.cityofnb.ca/business/site_selection/_incentives.html.

The incentives and other initiatives are administered through the city's business development office.

The city's director of business development offers assistance in a variety of ways including:

- Identifying suitable land and premises;
- Providing support to existing businesses;
- Business surveys and check up;
- Facilitating fast planning approvals;
- Marketing and development of Parsons Industrial Park;
- People attraction marketing;
- Advice on the local economy and referral to key agencies;
- Provision of economic statistics;
- Liaison with business support agencies.

For more information, call business development director Denis Lavertu at (306) 445-1718 (cellular (306) 441-4661), or email dlavertu@cityofnb.ca. Information about municipal services for business is available at www.cityofnb.ca/business.

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