The Biannual Magazine of the OSCO Construction Group

FALL 2005

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CONSTRUCTION, STEEL & CONCRETE

Marque Construction’s first project after incorporation in 1966 was to act as General Contractor for the Brunswick House office tower in Saint John, NB. OSCO and Strescon provided structural steel and precast panels for the project.

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CONNECTIONS is the Biannual Magazine of the OSCO Construction Group.

What's Inside...
Brun-Way Chooses Strescon to Join Team on Major Highway Project

- contributed by Christina L. Scott

The Brun-Way group, a joint venture involving SNC-Lavalin and Aiton Construction, was selected by the province of New Brunswick to complete the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway between Grand Falls and Woodstock. Brun-Way’s task is to complete the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway project are the New England United Odd Fellows is steel deck over structural steel. SNC-Lavalin and the Brun-Way group, a joint venture, along with selected upgrades and Woodstock. Brunway’s task is to complete the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway between Grand Falls and Woodstock. Brun-Way is able to utilize the newest 3D modeling technology for this project; TeddAstructures (see article on page 18). Completion date for the project is Nov.7th, 2007.

Ocean Steel Tackles NY Residential Market

- contributed by Brian R. Smith

Despite volatility in construction material prices, there is continued strong growth in the Northeast Corridor’s residential market. As a result, designers have become more creative with their choice of building methods and materials. Residential construction, once dominated by concrete, is now incorporating steel to accomplish more economic results.

Ocean Steel currently has residential projects in three of the five boroughs of New York City:

- 520 West 27th Street – Manhattan, NY
- 259 East 7th Street – Manhattan, NY
- State Renaissance Court – Brooklyn, NY
- United Odd Fellows and Rebekah Home – Brom, NY

Each project presents its own challenges with regards to design, coordination and location. Erector involvement from the start is a must. We are fortunate to have relationships with talented team members for the successful award and completion of these projects.

The first three projects are a combination of precast concrete plank on steel.

United Odd Fellows is steel deck over structural steel. SNC-Lavalin and the Brun-Way group, a joint venture, along with selected upgrades and Woodstock. Brunway’s task is to complete the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway between Grand Falls and Woodstock. Brun-Way is able to utilize the newest 3D modeling technology for this project; TeddAstructures (see article on page 18). Completion date for the project is Nov.7th, 2007.


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520 West 27th Street

Description: A new 11-story, 50,000-square-foot mixed-use condominium building currently under construction on the site of an old four-story warehouse and showroom for American Hanger and cross-sections involved, the Brun-Way group looked for a supplier to produce and deliver over four hundred concrete girders on time and within specifications.

As a supplier of bridge girders for the New Brunswick highway system for over forty years, Strescon is confident they can meet the schedule and supply girders of excellent quality.

The longest and heaviest girders for this Northern Trans Canada Highway project are the New England United Odd Fellows is steel deck over structural steel. SNC-Lavalin and the Brun-Way group, a joint venture, along with selected upgrades and Woodstock. Brunway’s task is to complete the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway between Grand Falls and Woodstock. Brun-Way is able to utilize the newest 3D modeling technology for this project; TeddAstructures (see article on page 18). Completion date for the project is Nov.7th, 2007.

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OSCO TOPS OFF COMMERCE BANK

THE TABBING OUT OF COMMERCE BANK IN MOUNT LAUREL, NEW JERSEY, OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2005.

An architect’s dream with no right-angles, Ocean Steel successfully completed this world-class training center on time, with Cornell & Company erecting. The complicated steel and deck design included many architectural elements and asymmetrical connections, requiring top performance from every aspect of the structural team. Other banks are already requesting tours of the facility, to duplicate what Commerce Bank has instituted.

OSCO GROUP IS SUPPLYING: 532 tons of structural steel, 527 tons of deck steel. Project Managers: Mike Zilnik and Brad MayPhe.

Cleaner Fuel for a Cleaner Earth

Irving Oil is currently investing $100-million to enable Canada’s largest refinery to produce ultra low sulphur diesel. Ultra low sulphur diesel has a sulphur content of 15 parts per million (ppm) or less, a potential 97 per cent reduction from today’s industry standard for on-road diesel, which allows for a maximum sulphur content of 500ppm. As of June 1, 2006 Canadian and US governmental legislation will come into effect that requires less than 15 parts per million sulphur content in diesel fuel. Irving was among the first refiners in North America to announce their investment in Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel.

New product drying facilities are being added to both the Merox and the Hydrodesulphurization units to achieve the new specifications. New pumps, piping, an online blending facility, isolated tankage and shipping lines, as well as new additive injection equipment will also be installed.

“The topping out of Commerce Bank in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, occurred on September 21, 2005. An architect’s dream with no right-angles, Ocean Steel successfully completed this world-class training center on time, with Cornell & Company erecting. The complicated steel and deck design included many architectural elements and asymmetrical connections, requiring top performance from every aspect of the structural team. Other banks are already requesting tours of the facility, to duplicate what Commerce Bank has instituted.”

“Irving was among the first refiners in North America to announce their investment in Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel.”
Ivy-League Steel

OSCO Steel Division Contracted by Bond Brothers for Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences’ Northwest Bldg

- contributed by Bernice Blairley

Construction commenced this fall on the Faculty of Arts and Sciences’ Northwest Building, on Harvard’s North campus in Cambridge, MA. The 470,000 square foot, four-story structure will have 210,000 square feet above grade, and 260,000 square feet on four underground levels. The building is one of three new science buildings that together represent the first phase of Harvard’s planned 1.6 million square feet of development of science and Harvard Law School (HLS) facilities in the North Yard.

Designed by Craig Hartman of SOM’s San Francisco office, the Northwest Science Building will house laboratories as well as nine classrooms, imaging facilities, space for research collections, and a pavilion-like multifunction room on its northeast corner. The flexible laboratory facility is sited in the former parking area beyond the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

When completed in late 2007, the facility is expected to accommodate up to 50 faculty members and their research groups, initially focusing on neuroscience, bioengineering, and particle physics. Ocean Steel is providing 2700 tons of structural steel, 585 tons of built-up plate girders, and 100 tons of collars for load bearing elements.

Strescon Purchases MacKay Property

This past October, Strescon purchased MacKay Forest Products Ltd. located at 439 Rothesay Avenue in Saint John. The purpose of this acquisition was to obtain the 13 acre property, adjacent to existing Strescon property (green square area in photo), to allow for additional out-building improvements, including the demolition of some of the existing buildings, to fully utilize this property in the manufacture and storage of its precast concrete products.

Strescon put together a package of pipe and manholes using Tyloc super-seal gasket for pipe to pipe connections and in-wall G-Loc gaskets for pipe to manhole connections. On sanitary pipe lines, Strescon pretests EVERY PIECE of pipe in our plant prior to shipping. After installed and buried, the pipe was tested again, to City of Moncton sanitary sewer specifications, against both infiltration and exfiltration.

Why Strescon is the Choice for Sanitary Pipe

THE PROJECT:
When the project design was completed, it included 2.4 km of 525mm diameter pipe, and 26 manholes which were 1200mm in diameter. A challenge for the project was the depth of bury required on the pipe, which ranged from 2.0m to 5.5m, with an average depth of 3.5m to 4m.

THE SOLUTION:
A call to Crandall Engineering and Mr. Richard Gabby M.Eng., P.Eng started the ball rolling. By careful site & route selection, Crandall was able to design a system to service the entire area with a gravity sewer, which eliminated the need for pumping stations that are costly to install and require ongoing maintenance and operating costs.

THE DESIGN:
Due to the significant industrial growth in the Moncton area, Moncton Industrial Developments (MID) who is the developer and promoter of industrial parks in the Moncton NB area, required an expansion of their existing developed land.

THE CONSTRUCTION:
Due to good design by Crandall Engineering; good workmanship by Entreprises Bastech Limitee; and a good product by Strescon; the City of Moncton can continue to grow, and provide places to work for its citizens. Good Job Guys!
Mission Impossible? Not for FCC...

FCC Communication Cabling Successfully Completes Irving Shipbuilding Network Upgrade in Two Days
- contributed by Bert Hanson

In August of 2005 Halifax Shipbuilding went under a complete communication infrastructure upgrade. The project was managed by Ric Cutlbertson of JD Irving IT division and Moe Cyr of Halifax shipbuilding. Reg MacWilliams performed an integral role in the network configuration for data communications. Allian’s representatives were on site as well to make sure the voice system was in full service after the upgrade.

The FCC team of Ron Rathje, Peter Lavigne, Nick Kilpatrick, Craig Miller, Ben Kilpatrick and Dave Harrison worked around the clock during the shutdown, which lasted from Friday evening at 5pm until Monday morning at 7am. The goal of the project was to upgrade the network hardware and to organize the structured cabling to the work stations. In total the team had to consolidate 450 communication lines at the main communications room coming from various locations throughout the shipyard facilities and to replace the obsolete data cabinets with a more user friendly H-rack system with cable management. The process to reorganize these 450 lines involved a total of 1550 - 4 pair wire or 5400 single wires to be terminated; a near impossible task for a 2 day shutdown, by any measure.

To aid in the task, the racks were terminated offsite in Saint John beforehand, and delivered to Halifax prior to the shutdown weekend. In the end, the project went extremely well, with the FCC team working in unison. The day crew worked on the demolition, labeling and dressing of cables, allowing the night crew to work non-stop terminating. All work was completed 9 hours ahead of schedule. On Monday morning, it was business as usual for Saint John Shipbuilding.

Without a doubt this was a project that very few of our competitors could have completed within the timeframe and with the resulting quality.

OSCO Receives NJ Hospital Contracts

Ocean Steel is currently involved in two hospital projects in Northern New Jersey.

Essex County Hospital Center – Cedar Grove, NJ

**DESCRIPTION:** This 150,000 square foot, four-storey structure is Ocean Steel’s first Mid-Atlantic hospital project. The $58-million steel and concrete facility, located on a 7.44 acre site, will be comprised of several elements including Patient Care Units, the patient’s home while they are at the Hospital Center, Off Unit diagnostic and treatment departments that will serve multiple patient populations, patient and staff support areas, and facility support areas. All of these specialized areas will be weaved together through spaces that will serve as places of patient treatment either directly or indirectly. These specialized spaces will be the basis of the “Patient Social and Rehabilitative Mall” that has become the heart of most successful mental healthcare facilities.

**OWNER:** Essex County, New Jersey

**ARCHITECT:** Cannon Design

**ENGINEER:** Cannon Design

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Pratico Development Corporation

**STRUCTURAL Steel Project Manager:** John Taylor

**CONTRACT:** 698 tons of steel, joists, and deck. Progress can be viewed at http://essexcountyhospitalproject.com.

Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital – Parsippany, NJ

**DESCRIPTION:** The new 430,000 square foot, four-storey, campus-style building will be a smaller, state-of-the-art replacement for the existing 128 year old existing facility. The 250 bed hospital, in conjunction with some existing buildings on the project site, will accommodate 390 patients on approximately 171 acres. The construction fulfills the State’s commitment to improve the quality of care and patient supervision at all adult state hospitals. The facility includes a police station and is the latest modernization to help restore and incorporate this one square mile campus into the community.

**OWNERS:** New Jersey Economic Development Authority

**ARCHITECT:** The Vietta Group

**ENGINEER:** The Vietta Group

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Torcon Inc.

**STRUCTURAL Steel Project Manager:** Brad MacPhee

**CONTRACT:** 2742 Tons structural steel, 42 Tons joists & 4691 squares of deck.

**STATUS:** Steel fabrication commencing winter of 2005 until March of 2006. Construction is expected to continue until 2008.

Given current demographics, the Mid-Atlantic healthcare and nursing care markets expect continued construction growth in the future.
Marque Mechanical Upgrading Vacuum System at Irving Paper

Once completed in early 2006, Marque Mechanical will have supplied over 5,700 man hours for the completion of the Vacuum System Upgrades at Irving Paper Limited in Saint John, NB. The project commenced in Sept.-05. Marque Mechanical is in the process of fabricating and installing over 720 feet of large bore stainless-steel pipe, the majority of which is between 24” to 36” in diameter. The upgrades consist of the installation of 2 new vacuum pumps and the removal of 4 existing ones.

and into the store.

The restaurant, with seating for 140, has been named “THE BACK FORTY” and is reminiscent of years gone by. The use of rich colours, rustic materials and historic photos take patrons on a journey back into the 1940’s.

The IRVING 24, which was designed at a lower elevation from the retail area, allows for an unobstructed, panoramic view of the picturesque countryside. The combination of a fenced-in patio area and a wood fence wrapping the upper level, completes the look and brings the rustic country feel from the restaurant out onto the site.

The professional drivers have not been forgotten. They have been provide a well equipped space of their own, with the typical showers / washrooms and seating area; as well as state of the art communication services.

Of course, some things remain the same; the service, quality and experience that we have to know as a staple, continue in Grand Falls. So next time you’re traveling up that way, make a point to stop and check it out, you won’t be disappointed.

Creating the best parking structure to fit the site, users and budget requires a careful balance of all elements and a logical plan from start to finish. Involving Strescon from the beginning while key design decisions are being made can create an黑马 differenc peak flows of traffic. Unless a parkade is safe, secure and easy-to-use, parkers will find other options.

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Creating the best parking structure to fit the site, users and budget requires a careful balance of all elements and a logical plan from start to finish. Involving Strescon from the beginning while key design decisions are being made can create a dramatic difference to the final result. Their expertise and input can minimize the time and cost required to complete a project. Precast parkades offer fast construction, versatility of design, attractive exterior finishes, durability and economy; making precast prestressed concrete a popular choice for commercial, municipal and institutional clients.

PARKING GARAGE POINTS TO CONSIDER

Parking structures often represent the first and last impression a visitor has when visiting a building, hospital, shopping or sports centre. Excellent parking structures are designed specifically for the types of visitors a structure will serve, based on the facilities they support and the daily or peak flows of traffic. Unless a parkade is safe, secure and easy-to-use, parkers will find other options.

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Ocean Steel Makes the Grade to Build NY & NJ Schools

Ocean Steel recently received three school contracts in New York and New Jersey. The first is Intermediate / Primary School 263 in Queens, with general contractor Hunter Roberts Construction Group. The second is Middle School / High School 362X in the Bronx, with general contractor Bovis Lend Lease; and the third is Public Elementary #4 in West New York, NJ, with Prismatic Development.

School construction requires special qualifications and skills. For example: the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (NJSCC), maintains a Contractor Classification system which requires current classification with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Property Management and Construction (DPMC). Contractors having this classification are required to fill out the NJSCC pre-qualification Application which is reviewed and forwarded to the Office of Government Integrity, (OGI) a unit of the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, for a moral integrity screening. Upon approval from the OGI, the SCC pre-qualifies a firm.

Overall, this lengthy process can take up to six months to complete. As a pre-qualified subcontractor we have the requirements of the NJSCC, Ocean Steel has now bid several similar projects, with more to come.

School budgets continue to drive construction in the Mid-Atlantic region. The NYC SCA operates on ten and five year plans. The first year of their current five year plan is 2005. We are confident our successful completion of these projects will ensure that our future is strong in this sector.

Public Elementary School #4 - West New York, NJ

DESCRIPTION: The new structure is part of the school reconstruction program being managed by the New Jersey School Construction Corporation (NJSCC). The Corporation is a public agency set up to implement an $8.6 billion overhaul of hundreds of schools throughout all 21 counties of New Jersey. The 126,352 square foot, 3 story, facility will replace the existing school and house students from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. Completion is scheduled for August, 2006.

Owner: West NY Board of Education Architect: Utzta Engineer: Viesta General Contractor: Prismatic Development Steel Project Manager: John Campbell

Public School #263 - Queens Village, NY

DESCRIPTION: A new 650-seat, 88,000 square-foot, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school. According to the architect’s website, their primary design challenge for the school stemmed from the need to compose a program of largely standardized rectilinear spaces on a site of highly irregular geometry.

Owner: New York City School Construction Authority Architect: Swanke Hayden Connell Architects Engineer: Yoray A. Senik General Contractor: Hunter Roberts Steel Project Manager: Theresa LeBlanc

Public School #362 - Bronx, NY

DESCRIPTION: Consists of both an Intermediate School and a High School. The two schools will be located on a single site, but are designed to be independent of each other, with separate ground floor entrances for each. Each school will accommodate 600 students, plus a special education component which will accommodate 120 students. Shared areas, such as the auditorium, gymnasium, library and cafeteria, will be accessible to both, located along an interor street.

Owner: New York City School Construction Authority Architect: Butter Architects Engineer: Yoray A. Senik General Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease Steel Project Manager: Jeffery Sweet

Garden Street Irving: Before

Garden Street Irving: After

Ocean Steel Makes the Grade to Build NY & NJ Schools

Combining Forces at OSCO Head Office

FCC Civil Performs Cosmetic Surgery

T

his past summer has been a busy one for FCC Civil as the rebrand team immersed themselves into the ongoing BlueCanoe Rebrand project. Starting with two Saint John area sites, the rebrand team quickly learned the ins and outs of the project, turning over 25 sites to IOL in the first 7 months. At any given time, the team is working on up to six sites, all at various stages of completion. Typically, two new sites are started every second week.

Each site receives an entire canopy makeover, including blue Fiber Reinforced Polymer fascia and vibrant red Light Emitting Diode lights. The undersides of the canopy also receives a facelift with the addition of pump shrouds, column cladding, and decals. BlueCanoe receive flashy yellow ACM Banding, a blueCanoe sign, and exterior paint. In addition to the sharp exterior, many sites receive an interior renovation consisting of new paint, doors, cabinet, equipment, and graphics.

Since all sites are in various states of repair, many require extra work before rebranding can begin. This “minor capital work” highly site-specific, however consumes a significant amount of time and resources. Coordinating the site crews is the experienced superintendent team of: Rick Cobbett, Joe Legault, Rob Murphy, Darryl Ross, Kevin Roy, and Dave Tucker transforming each site into a BlueCanoe. Site Superintendents are backed up by an office staff consisting of: Quality Assurance Agent, Lori Logue; Estimator, Mike Conners; Project Administrator, Sue Dort; Scheduler/Planner, Paula Walsh; and Program Manager, Steven Scott.

FCC has dedicated themselves to the Irving Oil Rebrand Project which is projected to move with full force into 2007.

The office space was completed in early March-06. Starting with two Saint John area sites, the rebrand team quickly learned the ins and outs of the project, turning over 25 sites to IOL in the first 7 months. At any given time, the team is working on up to six sites, all at various stages of completion. Typically, two new sites are started every second week.

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FCC Electrical Update:

Villa du Repos

FCC Electrical has been awarded the electrical contract for the new $14.3M Villa du Repos 126 Bed Long-Term Care Facility in Moncton. A lot of work has progressed since the last article. Two wings, the connection core and the central core are scheduled to be handed over to the owners in late December. The remaining two wings are to be handed over early in 2006.

The FCC Electrical team of supervisor Jim Johnson, foreman Jayson Brown and John Arnold along with the rest of the crew, have faced many interesting challenges during construction of this facility. Poor weather conditions and problems with frost in the early stages of this project put the overall construction behind schedule. The FCC Team has worked multiple weekends and long days in order to overtake the schedule delays and are confident that the tight finish schedule can be met.

Source Atlantic

FCC Electrical was awarded the electrical contract for the new branch renovations at the Source Atlantic building on King Street and down Canterbury Street. FCC Electrical Supervisor Adam Sarchefield along with Mike Cosman and Gary Cummings are now diligently proceeding with the installation of new equipment and communications conduits with a scheduled completion early in 2006.

IOL Rebrand Projects

FCC Electrical has been working very closely with FCC Civil on the roll out of the new Irving Oil Blue Canoe rebrand project. So far to date, FCC Electrical has completed 30 conversions from the old IOL prototype to the New Blue Canoe in the Southern NB and Nova Scotia areas. The FCC Electrical team of Supervisors Morel Ouellette and Rick Hetherington and their assembled team of electricians have worked diligently to complete sites in a last paced schedule.

Marque Industrial Update:

Ipping Paper Inc.

Marque Electrical & Instrumentation under the supervision of Terry Hoar have been working on the Paper Machine No. 1 Upgrade by installing the equipment and cabling for new Calendar VIB, the DCS cabinet and cabling and the 2.8KV & 13.8KV switchgear and transformer and 600V motor control centers and cabling for the Unit Substation.

They have recently been awarded the contract for the Press Main Electrical & Instrumentation installation at Irving Paper.

Lake Utopia

Marque Electrical, under the supervision of Mike Clinton, supplied the electrical installation for Unit Sub 2 - Phase 1.2 & 5 at Lake Utopia Paper. Marque cut the existing machine over to new upgrade, and supplied & installed the MCC’s, Load Centers, Bus Ducts and 4000’ of tray. The project began in September 04 and was completed in September-05.

Progress Snapshots...

Project: Upper Santallon Blue Canoe Location: Upper Santallon, NS Company Involved: FCC Civil & FCC Electrical

Project: Centerbeam Place Location: Saint John, NB Company Involved: FCC Civil, FCC Electrical, FCC Cabling

Project: Lake Utopia Paper Location: Lake Utopia, New Brunswick Company Involved: Marque Electrical

Industrial

Spent Fuel Storage Cannisters, Saint John, NB, 109 Tons of rebar, 29,000 SF of mesh

Wind Turbine Foundations, Glace Bay, NS, Irving Builders, 27 Tons of rebar

NB Southern Railways Warehouse, Saint John, NB, Atlantic Rig, Contractors, 122.3 Tons of rebar

GT3 Turbine Project, Charlottetown, PEI, Marconi Maritime, 101 Tons of rebar

Composting Building, Moncton, NB, 87 Tons of rebar, 56,000 SF of mesh

Miscellaneous Irving Oil Refinery Upgrades, Gulf Operators Ltd. - 174 Tons of rebar

Institutional

Wesleyan Church, Moncton, NB, Academic Construction, 21.2 Tons of rebar

Upper River Valley Hosp. Foundation Contract, Waterville, NB, Springfield Construction, 172 Tons rebar

Springhill Institute, Building A & B, Springfield, NS, 70 Tons of rebar

Multipurpose Building, Class NB, Duhaime, Raymond Const., 26.9 Tons rebar

Building A, Place 1605, Dieppe, NB, Acadian Const., 38.3 Tons of rebar, 66,000 SF of mesh

Future Inns, Moncton, NB, Future Inns, 275 Tons of rebar

Sobeys’ St. Stephen, NB, Rideau Const. Inc., 26 Tons rebar

Wharves & Bridges

Peticodiac River Bridge Approaches, Moncton, NB, Modern Construction Ltd., 38.2 Tons of rebar

Gulf River Bridge, Stanhope, PEI, Highfield Construction Ltd., 58.4 Tons of rebar
Gold Seal Certification

What is Gold Seal?
The certificate issued to Gold Seal recipients by the Canadian Construction Association signifies personal attainment of a nationally recognized level of education and experience by the construction industry as a Project Manager, Superintendent or Estimator. The Gold Seal Certificate enhances professional development of construction managers.

FCC & Marque Among the Top
According to Lin Hupman, Gold Seal’s New Brunswick’s Provincial Review Committee Chairman, Marque and FCC are two of the top companies in New Brunswick with 10 Gold Seal Certified employees currently employed in the construction sector. It has recently become our company goal to reach the highest level of professionalism and in the past year we have assisted 6 out of 10 employees in obtaining their Gold Seal Certification. As Gold Seal Sponsors, we continue to encourage and support our employees in getting the experience and training that is essential in obtaining a Gold Seal Certification. Our following employees have received Gold Seal Recognition:

Carl Blanchard, P. Eng, G.S.C.
Project Manager - General Contracting

Tom Coughlan, G.S.C.
Project Manager - Electrical Contracting

Pat Bagley, G.S.C.
Project Manager - Electrical Contracting

Steven Scott, P. Eng, G.S.C.
Project Manager - General Contracting

Molly Knoer, G.S.C.
Project Manager - General Contracting

Molly Knoer, G.S.C.
Estimator - General Contracting

George Foote, G.S.C.
Superintendent - Electrical Contracting

Ron Buchanan, G.S.C.
Superintendent - General Contracting

James Johnson, G.S.C.

Superintendent - Electrical Contracting

Rick Hetherington, G.S.I.
Superintendent - Electrical Contracting

Mike Clinton, G.S.C.
Superintendent - Electrical Contracting

Corporate Services Sector Re-organization

The mission of the Corporate Services sector of the OSCO Construction Group is to provide support to the Steel, Concrete and Construction sectors, in the areas of: finance; information technology; contract administration; and human resources. Corporate Services is dedicated to working seamlessly in the background; allowing managers to concentrate on operations rather than on the administrative side of their businesses.

The Group’s five-year strategic plan has aggressive growth targets in all operational sectors. It is imperative that Corporate Services meet these challenges by being flexible in the delivery of services, and stay in sync with the changing needs of our customers in the three sectors. Additionally, we strive to provide new services in all areas to help make our targets achievable.

Finance/Accounting has restructured over this past year by creating Sector Teams, each headed by a Sector Controller, working with Accounting Specialists and Business Analysts who focus on the special needs of each operational sector. We’ve also introduced the new position of Group Finance Manager to our executive team. Our Group Finance Manager will work in combination with the Group Controller to ensure all aspects of financial data and reporting meet the needs of the Group.

Human Resources has experienced significant change this year as well. Payroll has been transferred from the Finance Group to HR, and we’ve appointed a Payroll Manager to focus on improving the existing processes and supervising the transition of payroll to our ERP system. The experience of the existing payroll staff has been invaluable during this transition and we are seeing improvements on a daily basis.

We’ve also strengthened HR by creating a Recruitment Team to meet the challenge of finding the right candidates to join our Group. Under the direction of our Recruitment Manager, our two new recruiters are able to dedicate their time solely to these efforts and we will be able to reduce the amount required to recruit new people required to meet our goals.

Tekla® Structures

3D Precast Design Technology Simplifies the Process and Helps Prevent Costly Problems

- contributed by Dave Maniappey

I n late 2002, a group of major Canadian and U.S. Precast producers (Precast Concrete Software Consortium) chose Tekla® to develop a 3D parametric modeling platform that could provide an efficient and productive design/detailing solution to the Precast Industry. After several years of hard work we are excited to announce that Tekla® Structures has been certified for the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI)’s Gold Seal Certification!

Tekla® Structures is the only software available today that can support PCI’s Gold Seal Certification Program. Our precast contractors have been using Tekla® Structures exclusively throughout the project life cycle providing them with the tools to implement this powerful and far-reaching platform in their operations.

Tekla® Structures was developed by the Tekla® software team, a group of individuals dedicated to providing powerful software solutions to the construction industry. Tekla® Structures is a powerful and intuitive 3D modeling and detailing solution that has been designed specifically for the construction industry and is capable of handling a wide range of tasks, from simple drawings to complex 3D models.

The software is easy to use, and the learning curve is relatively short. It has a user-friendly interface that is designed to make it easy for users to create and modify models. The software also provides a range of tools for creating and editing models, including tools for creating and modifying 3D models, as well as tools for creating and editing drawings.

Tekla® Structures is used by construction firms of all sizes, from small firms to large construction companies. The software is designed to be flexible and scalable, allowing firms to start small and grow as their needs change.

In addition to its powerful modeling and detailing capabilities, Tekla® Structures also includes a range of other features, such as project management tools, and a range of tools for creating and editing drawings. The software is also fully integrated with a range of other software tools, such as Tekla® DesignLink, which allows users to share information between different tools.

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S
tcro Group Safety Report

Two NSCSA Awards for Strescon-NS

Compensation Board (WCB) versus the actual costs of accidents and injuries experienced by the firm over the past year. “These companies have worked diligently throughout the year to help raise safety standards in the construction industry,” says NSCSA General Manager Bruce Collins. “Recognizing their efforts helps reinforce the positive safety culture message promoted by the NSCSA, and encourages others to follow suit.”

This award followed presentations at the plant earlier in the year, recognizing twenty-four months free of lost-time accidents. At the time of this writing, the plant has worked over 400,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

The NSCSA Leadership Award was presented to Keith Burke. Keith has been the Safety Supervisor since Strescon began participation in the NSCSA COB program in 1996. During this period, he has consistently worked in developing, improving, and ensuring compliance with a detailed and comprehensive safety program.

Although credit can be shared between management, labour, and the health and safety committee, it can easily be argued that Keith has been the catalyst behind the development of a “safety culture” at this location.

In addition to the 2.5 years lost-time accident free at the Strescon plant in Bedford, there are three other recent milestones to report.

Ocean Steel Erection

Completed five years and is approaching 150,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

Ocean Steel Corporation's plant in Conklin, NY has worked one year lost-time accident free (75,000 hours).

Scharman Concrete Limited

Completed twelve months and 50,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

C-TPAT Training

T
the OSCO Group Construction Group is actively participating in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT).

The events of September 11, 2001 have resulted in a demand for greater security in all business sectors that export into the U.S. C-TPAT is a voluntary, joint US government and business initiative, to build cooperative relations that strengthen supply chain and border security.

The benefits of C-TPAT include: being identified as low risk for security and compliance; reduced inspections (reduced border times); and an emphasis on self-policing, rather than Customs verifications.

As part of this program, the OSCO Group has submitted signed agreements to Customs, representing our commitment to the C-TPAT security guidelines. We have also assessed and improved our security procedures, designated C-TPAT Coordinators, and conducted training with all applicable personnel.

OSCO Corporation's plant at Conklin, NY has worked one year lost-time accident free (75,000 hours).

Steel Quality Management

- contributed by Graham Smith

This past year, the three steel fabrication companies of the Ocean Group completed changes to their quality management systems (QMS). Two upgraded to the American Institute of Steel Quality Fabricator Certification (AISC) Standard, and the third added the ASC Quality Fabricator Certification Standard to their existing QMS which is registered to the ISO 9001:2000 standard.

The purpose of the ASC Quality Fabricator Certification Standard is to confirm to owners, the design community and the construction industry that a certified structural steel fabricating facility has the personnel, organization, experience, procedures, knowledge, equipment and commitment to produce fabricated steel for the quality required for normal structural steel building construction.

The changes involved extensive revisions and additions to the documentation, and some changes in a few of the processes. The changes were made and implemented over five months, ending in early May of 2005, in preparation for the July audit for certification purposes.

Quality Management Company, LLC (QMC) performed the audit. QMC provides independent quality audits for the ASC certification program.

Ocean Steel & Construction

Ocean Steel & Construction Ltd. became certified to the ASC Quality Fabricator Certification Standard with the Sophisticated Paint Endorsement - Enclosed in August 2005. The ASC certification shows that the company’s QMS meets the standard requirements for fabricating and supplying complex building structures and applying sophisticated painting systems in an enclosed structure (see above). The company’s QMS was originally registered to the ISO 9001:1994 standard in July of 1999 and also is now registered to the ISO 9001:2000 standard. ISO (The International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies. The registrar for the ISO standard is RSI Management Systems Canada Inc. BSI (British Standards Institute) is the world’s leading international standards, testing, and registration and certification organization.
Halifax Entry Wins 2nd Place in PCI Big Beam Contest

At their meeting on August 2, 2005, the PCI Student Education Judging Committee selected the 2005 Engineering Student Design Award (Big Beam Contest) winners. First place winners from each of the six PCI Zones, along with the International entries (considered as Zone 7), competed for the Overall Championship. The student team of Mark Rout and James Miller from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS won 2nd Place from the numerous International entries received. The team was aided by their Faculty Advisor: John Newhook; and Strescon-NS. The students received $750 along with other prizes, for their efforts. The Big Beam Contest is organized by PCI’s Student Education Committee and sponsored by Sika Corporation.

The objective is for teams of students to fabricate and test a precast, prestressed concrete beam with the help of local PCI producer members. Prizes are awarded for the most efficient design, highest load capacity, best report, and other categories. Applications for the 2006 Big Beam Contest are due at PCI by March 15, 2006, and test reports by June 15, 2006.

Concrete Fleet News

- contributed by Rick Cleveland

Major Changes

Less than 5 years ago, the fleet was in average condition and most of the repairs were made at the Ashburn Lake Road facility. Documentation was poor as far as repairs or mileages, and all time entry was hand written. Since the introduction of “One World”, fleet maintenance has undergone some major changes. All repairs are now tracked with work orders and purchases for parts, labour or outsourced service are linked to a repair order. We can track all costs, and in doing so, have recovered more in parts/service warranty from local vendors and have discovered premature failures and the reasons behind them. A cost analysis is now done before any major problems are repaired, and we are moving toward replacing assets at predetermined intervals.

New Fleet Additions

We have recently updated the power unit and mixer fleet. In 2005 we added one new Freightliner and two Western Star tractors to the truck fleet and two new Western Star mixers to that ready mix fleet, with an additional two Western Star mixers on order for 2006.

New Options

Every detail was looked at and the specifications were changed according to the requirements of each business unit. Larger more powerful engines in the tractors, shorter wheel base to help articulate the unit at job sites, and engine/cab diesel heaters to reduce winter idling, are just a few of the changes made.

New Colors

Many have noticed the new colors of both the tractor and ready-mix fleets. Power units are now White with Blue graphics and a redesigned door decal. The mixers are now Blue with Grey drums and the same new door decal. The light duty and automotive fleet also adopted the same stripping and door decals. Asset and unit numbers are displayed on all units as well as phone numbers on the ready mix vehicles.

Improved Tracking

The One World system is now set up to track service requirements such as motor vehicle inspections, oil change and preventative maintenance schedules for the SJ, Moncton and PEE fleets. Starting later in 2005, we have included some of the precast and pipe plant machinery to have maintenance intervals tracked, based on time or hours of operation.

Along with repair and maintenance tracking we have included satellite tracking for our power unit fleet. Starting in October 2005 we will be installing Trimble units in 7 vehicles, which will allow us to communicate with the drivers and locate each truck via GPS satellites and the internet.

This year’s Employee Recognition Dinner was given a fresh new image and renamed the OSCO Oscars. The evening began at the Delta Brunswick Hotel on May 6th with a reception in the lounge followed by a buffet meal in the Ballroom. The ceremony then got under way with Bernie Blakely from the Steel Division as Master of Ceremonies. Hans O Klohn began the evening with a keynote address which outlined the various achievements that the company had accomplished with the help and dedication of its employees. He went on to speak about the direction the company was headed and how employee dedication is crucial to our future.

Employee Retirements

Some of the precast and pipe plant machinery to have maintenance intervals tracked, based on time or hours of operation.

The next item on the agenda was the Oscars. The OSCO Oscars are peer elected awards in 5 categories within each of our company’s product sectors: the Leadership Award; the Corporate Citizen Award; and the Customer Focus Award.

The Leadership Awards:

By embracing the core values of the organization, these people lead by example. They are positive and forthright and keep the corporate culture, values, and vision in mind when making decisions in their day to day work. This year’s Oscars for leadership went to:

Lisa Frazee (Steel) & Nick Holt (Concrete)

A New Look for the 3rd Annual Employee Recognition Dinner

- contributed by Vanessa Bartow

Corporate Citizen Award:

Awarded to the individuals who promote interest in company or community events. These employees are always ready and willing to become involved, even though it is not required that they do so. They are proactive in planning activities, whether internal (sports, parties etc.) or in the community.

The 2005 Oscars went to:

Nancy Maynard (Construction), Julie Duff (Steel), Bogliuni-Wright (Corporate), Christine Martin (Steel) & Chris Greer (Concrete)

Customer Focus Awards:

Given to individuals who do an exceptional job of judging internal priorities with the needs of the customer. These individuals consistently present a positive and professional demeanor when in contact with our customers - both internal and external.

The 2005 Oscar winners were:

Dan Fox (Construction), Animesh Das (Concrete), Debbie Bourque (Steel) & Carrie Watson (Corporate)

Next was the Safety Awards. This year’s Safety Award went to Strescon Bedford, while the Field Safety Award was given to P.E.I. Electrical.

Last, but not least, was the Employee Satisfaction Awards. These awards are determined by the results from a Group wide employee opinion survey, conducted to ascertain how management is doing at keeping their employees happy and productive. This year’s winning departments were:

Steel Design

Construction: Civil Office & Electrical Service

Concrete: Production-NS

Corporate: OCSO Group Administration

Overall Winner: Steel Design

We thank everyone who helped out to make the evening a success, and hope that you all join us next year at the OSCO OSCARS.
Let the Sun Shine In

- contributed by Vanessa Bastow

The weather was perfect; a warm breeze blew in off the water, and everyone at this year’s OSCO Construction Group company picnic had a great time. Once again, Perly Palmer astounded the children, as he performed his magic show on the Irving Soundstage. Family photos were taken by photographer Rod Sears, and face painting was done by our great volunteers.

The children enjoyed the inflatable bouncers, the ring toss and the “Ball Basket Toss”. There were also the annual races, where the children participated in the egg toss, the 5 legged race and the potato sack race.

As always, our volunteer chefs created a wonderful barbequed feast. The OSCO Group would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped out, especially event coordinators George Paisley and Greg Osmon; and this year’s event coordinator, Amy Hatt.

The Picnic could not have been a success without you! See you all NEXT YEAR!
Flashback Page

OSCO Teams Win 1971 Hockey Championship
- contributed by Mike Crowley, or RF Walsh, (via Brad MacPhie)

100 lbs of PEI Potatoes... and OSCO
- contributed by Harry Walker

The Rookie
- contributed by Trevor L. Kingston

In memory of George Sharpe,long time employee of OSCO and recently deceased.

O n my first day of work at Ocean Steel, in July 1972, I was as green to the work-ings of a steel fabrication shop as any 18 year old could be. As a recently graduated elec-trical apprentice... I know NOTHING about welding or such. It was such a hot day.

Perhaps sensing my situation and wanting to make me feel more at ease... George introduced himself to me and I welcomed a friendly face(!)little knowing that I was about be introduced to his great sense of humour also.

Commenting on my inexperience and youth ful ruggedness (not the case today!), George proceeded to go into the cool basement of the plant and retrieved what I was to learn was a 1/4” by 18” 7024 welding electrode known affectionately as a “Jet rod”. With the exterior flux coating, it had an overall diameter of about 5/8”. Again, he mentioned that I looked quite strong (strok ing my now inflated ego) and asked if I thought I could bend this rod around the back of my neck... using only my two pinky fingers. Well, the dare HAD to be challenged!!

So began my life of being on the receiving end of all that cold flux dropping down the inside of my shirt and stopping just at my belt!

George, barely able to hold back his growling smile, then said: “Yup, I was right. You are a strong young fella!”

The Ocean Steel Corporation consists of six employees, including two Journeyman Industrial Mechanics and two Journeyman Industrial Electricians and two Journeyman Industrial Mechanics. Ocean Steel’s structural plant. This group consists of six employees, including two Journeyman Industrial Mechanics and two Journeyman Industrial Electricians.

Congratulations to Matt Love, who has received his Diploma of Apprenticeship as an Industrial Mechanic (Millwright). Matt transferred from the OSCO Rebar plant to the OSCO maintenance department in 2002. Since then, he has taken 144 months of training at NBCC, and has logged over 6,000 hours of qualified work experience covering all aspects of this trade.

Matt has become a valuable member of our maintenance group, who are responsible for maintenance at Ocean’s structural and rebar plants and at York Steel’s structural plant. This group consists of six employees, including two Journeyman Industrial Electricians and two Journeyman Industrial Mechanics. Ocean Steel Corporation consists of six employees, including two Journeyman Industrial Mechanics and two Journeyman Industrial Electricians. Congratulations to Matt Love, who has received his Diploma of Apprenticeship as an Industrial Mechanic (Millwright). Matt transferred from the OSCO Rebar plant to the OSCO maintenance department in 2002. Since then, he has taken 144 months of training at NBCC, and has logged over 6,000 hours of qualified work experience covering all aspects of this trade.

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2005
OSCO Group
Picnic