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Mission Statement:

At Fred Groenestege Construction Limited service is our watchword. We are dedicated to our customers by providing value through attention to workmanship, response time, on-time delivery of state-of-the-art buildings and after-sale follow-up.



Fred Groenestege

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

“Building For Your Future”

Employee Profile: Mark Muir

Mark Says

“If you do it right the first time, you don't have to say sorry.”

Mark Muir was born and raised in St. Marys. After graduating from college in Ottawa he began to work with us at FGC. He has been with us for 10 years now, starting as a general labourer and moving all the way to job supervisor. For the past six years Mark has been running his own crew and looking after many projects. On a personal note, Mark began dating his wife of three years, Annette, the same summer he started working here at FGC. They currently reside in St. Marys.



Mark Muir ; FGC Job Supervisor

Business Outlook: by Fred Groenestege

I was sure hoping by the time I put my comments together for this newsletter there would be more positive things in the agricultural industry to comment on. That just doesn't seem to be the case yet! We have all been told many times that it is important in life to stay focused on the positive things, but be realistic. We know some times, things are made more difficult than the actual situation because nobody can see anything positive. From our experience we have seen both the positive and negative response due to an actual situation. When the price of pork was a \$1.85/kg nobody believed that it was ever going to come down, and we all know what happened. When it is \$1.10/kg nobody believes it is ever going to go up. It was once said that the only constant in life is change, and when something is high it can only come down and vice versa. That would tell us that the price is probably going to go up again, we just don't know when! So the only advise I can offer you, our customers right now is try and stay focused on the positive things in your lives, and I'm sure things will get better in the business of farming in the future.

When we look at what lies ahead for our business, the uncertainty that you are experiencing, we are also experiencing. We are still diversifying and looking for new opportunities to try and get more stability in our revenues. And like you, we are trying to cut expenses

where ever we can to try and remain profitable.

Currently, we have a full schedule of projects completed, which is very positive compared to the same time last year. We could still use a fair amount of work though to keep us busy to the end of the year and are hoping that this develops. If there is a project you are contemplating at this time, please give us a call

“We hope for all of your continued success, for we fully understand that only this can ensure our success!”

and we would be more than happy to assist you in getting it planned.

In the past few months we had a couple of open houses for new facilities we completed over the winter months (see related article in this newsletter). The open houses were wonderful because it gave us an opportunity to visit with a lot of our existing customers, and also gave anybody interested in constructing a facility a chance to view them before the doors are closed once animals arrive. We would like to thank everybody for the positive comments about the amount of pride our employees take in their workmanship, and that we have addressed all the little details. You, as our customers, have

come to expect this from us and we look forward to the opportunity to meet all of your expectations in the future.

We hope that you can still see the positive things in your work and we all look forward to things improving in the agricultural industry in the near future.

Industry Issues:

Currently in the construction industry in Ontario there is a real push by the Ministry of Labour to get all contractors to comply with the current Safety Regulations. The intent is to try and reduce construction related fatalities and lost time injuries in the industry. To accomplish this goal, last year the Ministry hired additional staff to inspect more jobsites. This turned out to be so profitable for them that they are again going to hire more staff to cover even more jobsites. This will probably mean that if you have any kind of construction project underway on your property there is a greater chance that **you will** get a visit by the Ministry of Labour.

What does this mean to you, our customer? Well for our customers not a whole lot. We have all the proper documentation, company health and safety policy, insurance etc. in place. We also have a very good safety record in regards to very few lost time injuries. This is one way the Ministry of Labour is identifying which sites to go visit by looking at the company's

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A Full Service Contractor From Concept to Completion

- **Providing our Agricultural Clients with Minimum Distance Calculations, Animal Flow, Waste Handling/ Storage and Building Permit Requirements**
- **The Leading Supplier of Turn-key Agricultural Projects**
- **Providing our Clients with the Best Buildings and Production Facilities in the Industry for over 27 years**
- **The Preferred and Trusted Choice**
- **Dedicated to Outstanding Service and Customer Satisfaction**

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design **build** **contractor**



Business Outlook continued

injury and lost time records. This leads to the next question.

Who is responsible for the safety on a jobsite? If you, the owner, are acting as the "General Contractor", then it is your responsibility in the eyes of the Ministry of Labour. When are you the "General Contractor"? If you were for instance to hire somebody to do the excavation work, electrical, plumbing and let's say feeding systems etc. then you would be considered the "General Contractor" This would mean that you would be responsible for all Health & Safety on the jobsite unless one of the subcontractors you hired would accept the responsibility. This means you would need to do the following:

- Have a Health and Safety policy in place.
- Train all workers in regards to proper Health and Safety on your jobsite. This includes the use of heavy equipment, WHMIS, fall arrest etc.
- Be responsible for fines from the Ministry of Labour for any safety regulation infractions.
- Have liability insurance in place to act as a general contractor, this is different



As the General contractor of your building, we look after the Health & Safety regulations for the jobsite

than your farm liability insurance, ask your insurance company. (this is not mandatory but of course recommended)

- Provide temporary or permanent wash-room facilities for all workers.
- Obtain clearance certificates from all sub trades from the Workers Compensation Board to insure they are registered with the WSIB.
- File Notice of Project with the Ministry of Labour .

The above is by no means inclusive but

Customer Profile: Bartside Farms by Murray Elliott

Fred Groenestege Construction Limited would like to thank Wayne and Jeff Bartel and family of Binbrook, Ontario for selecting us as their general contractor.

The Bartels had a 2000 head finishing facility with Elite Swine and a high producing dairy herd before they decided to take their farm enterprise in a new direction. Leaving the dairy industry and starting a new sow herd created a huge learning curve for the family. They have proven they were up for the challenge with the exceptional performance being generated from the new barn.

The new barn is set up as a 600 head farrowing/dry sow unit with eight nursery rooms.

Wayne and Jeff choose to use our Porcon side entry farrowing design



600 head farrowing/dry sow barn for Bartside Farms

with four full rooms and a smaller overflow room. The farrowing rooms use in floor heat for all the heat requirements for both the creep area and the room heat.

The nursery rooms are divided into six pens with Matrix floor and utilize fin tube heat for all heat requirements. All heating in both the farrowing and nursery areas come from a corn boiler with a propane

gives you an idea of your responsibilities if you decide to act as your own general contractor. Technically even if you hire the excavator on your own you can be viewed as the "General Contractor". For our customers we can assure you that we have everything in place and know our responsibility as the "General Contractor".

One last industry issue is the value our customers are insuring their facilities for. All our customers need to know we have had a lot of inflation in the cost of new construction in the last few years. A good estimate would be a minimum of 5% a year over the last five years. We would ask that you keep this in mind when you review your insurance policies and if you have any questions please contact our office. With insurance keep in mind you don't want to end up insurance poor, as we say, only insure what you can't afford to lose.

backup system.

The Bartels choose to use pit ventilation throughout the barn. The unique under alley ventilation systems employed within this facility improves air quality significantly for both the livestock and the operators. In these tough market conditions with the increased viral challenges every improvement to air quality shows on the bottom line.

As new producers Wayne and Jeff impressed me with their diligence to detail and their ability to absorb huge amounts of information and process this into intelligent decisions. I would like to welcome this family into the pork industry and wish them all the best. I am confident that utilizing the same qualities that made them excellent milk producers will make them excellent pork producers and a new asset to our industry.

2005 CFBA Builder of the Year Awards by Ken Vander Eyk



The annual Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) Builder of the Year Awards Banquet was held in Toronto this past February. FGC was the recipient of three 1st

place awards in the four categories entered. More plaques added to our walls in the main foyer of our office building.

Farrowing Facility for Rob & Kim Pierce



Swine Facilities: Rob and Kim Pierce of Port Burwell. The Pierce project was a 600 sow farrow to finish operation totaling 71,000 square feet of building. Full manure storage under the barn and extensive use of the Royal Building Systems vinyl-encased concrete wall can be found at this site. Fully automated feed and ventilation systems, hot water heating in farrowing rooms, and a weigh scale and sort out area accentuate many of the fine details of this project.

Layer barn for Henry & Sandra Bos



Poultry Facilities: Bellwood Farms, Henry and Sandra Bos, of Blyth. The Bos project was a 15,000 unit layer facility that once again contained extensive use of the RBS wall system for the perimeter walls and cooler & packing rooms. The floor of the packing area used a red coloring for a more pleasant working atmosphere.

Storage Facilities: Norm & Barb Regier of Zurich. This insulated storage and repair shed was an incredible 80' 0" wide

Storage Facility for Norm & Barb Regier



(clear span) wood structure x 120' 0" long with a 20' 0" ceiling height. The overhead door was an amazing 36' 0" wide x 16' 0" high!! The building also included in-floor heating, a main office, employee lunch room and shower facilities.

FGC would like to thank Rob and Kim Pierce, Henry and Sandra Bos and Norm and Barb Regier once again for choosing us to be their general contractor on these projects.