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Mission Statement:

At FGC 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.

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FGC LIMITED

“Building For Your Future”

Sales Announcement: Chris McIntosh

“I loved it then and still love it today.”

FGC is pleased to announce the appointment of Chris McIntosh as Dairy Sales Representative. Chris grew up on a dairy farm near Brussels Ontario and

latest technologies and advancements in harvesting milk and managing a dairy.”

The few hours that his mind is not on the business of servicing dairy farms, he continues to play music (drums) and assist local fund raising efforts by playing for dances and concerts.



after finishing school, he started working at a milking equipment dealership servicing Huron, Wellington, Dufferin and Peel Counties. Twenty years later, although his roles in the business evolved, he never left the industry. “I loved it then and still love it today. I have always enjoyed understanding the

From all of us at FGC Limited we hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas holidays. May the good tidings of the season carry on through 2009.



In lieu of Christmas cards to our customers and friends we made a \$500 donation to the United Way of Perth County.

Business Outlook By Fred Groenesteghe

In a couple of our proceeding newsletters I talked about opportunities and change. My comment was “I firmly believe that there will be lots of new opportunities for each and everyone of us, but this will be highly dependent on how we grasp and adjust to change.” During the past few months we have witnessed lots of change, some good and some not so good! I think I can safely guarantee change will always be upon us.

The not so good change (actually no change); I usually try to avoid politics but in this case I just need to make a couple of comments. We still have a Conservative government. Now, some people say that isn't so bad because they haven't really done anything wrong! I believe that to be very correct, only because they haven't done anything at all!

Not once during the entire campaign did they ever come forward with an agriculture policy statement. Matter of fact they didn't come forward with a policy statement on anything until the last week of the campaign. They just didn't think they needed to. They only mentioned “agriculture” when they were trying to defend the Minister for his comments about the listeria outbreak. I think this is just shameful considering the extraordinary challenges we are experiencing as of late, particularly in the beef

and pork sectors.

Agriculture is also the third largest industry in this great country of ours and it is hardly even noticed by our current government. Remember their campaign pitch “stay the course”. This gives you an indication of where our government's head is at, and tells me we can't expect much support of any kind as long as they are in power.



The automobile industry just starts to have a few challenges and our Minister of Finance says they will do whatever it takes to retain the ones they want to keep. Wow! If only agriculture was on the same radar screen! We aren't looking for handouts. We just want a government that defends and supports us so we can compete on a local and international level! The only reason they were re-elected is because we just didn't have a viable alternative. Their arrogance will come back to haunt them!

The good change; We had an election south of the border and there we will see change. Right now I can only believe this will be good for North America, and in fact the world. The Americans were tired of General Bush, and unlike here in Canada, they had a viable option to choose. I can't imagine George Bush can look back and say “Wow, I did a good job as leader of the most powerful nation in the world”. Instead, I think history will prove that he not only destroyed several foreign nations, he almost destroyed America, itself. What a legacy, almost unbelievable! If nothing else, their new leader, Barack Obama, will at least give the American people hope! With hope I believe it will only be a matter of time and we will see the economical situation in North America improve.

That's the end of my political rant, now on to the most important part of this article, opportunities; The talk out there right now is we might be headed into a recession. Well the rest of the economy can go ahead and have their recession, because we have had ours, especially if you are in the beef or pork business. Our experience in the past has been that when the rest of the economy is in a recession usually the best place to be is in agriculture. I guess people figure they can't eat

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THE GROUND BREAKER

“Building For Your Future”

Winter 2009

A Full Service Contractor From Concept to Completion

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design **build** **contractor**



Business Outlook continued

their cars so they get more focused on the importance of food, hence we usually see some new opportunities!

Here at FGC, we are continually looking for new opportunities. In the past year we have been involved in more dairy, poultry and even horse facilities. We have also been more active in the commercial and institutional markets for projects such as a new fire hall, schools and retirement/rest homes.

Our goal in the dairy industry is to provide the same turnkey service we have become recognized for in the pork industry. We are currently involved in several dairy projects and look forward to many more. To achieve this goal we also need the right people for the job, so Chris McIntosh joined us in September. Chris

has many years of experience in the dairy business (see related article in this newsletter). For you dairy farmers out there, if you have any type of future project in mind, please give Chris a call and he would be more than happy to assist you with your plans.

To keep us busy around our yard, in June, we acquired the precast concrete business from Perth Precast & Supply Limited, a division of Perth & Huron Concrete. This gives them the opportunity to stay more focused on the redi-mix concrete business and gives us the opportunity to better utilize our precast plant. We have done specialty precast items such as the new signs for Central Huron Township and tree planters for North Perth Township. If you ever need anything in

electrical vaults, catch basins and an array of miscellaneous related precast concrete products along with any specialty items, give us a call and speak to Mark Vogels. He is eager to help you.

In closing I'm sure there will be lots of new opportunities for you, our customers, as well as ourselves at FGC. We will also continue to see lots of change, some good and some not so good. If there are any changes we can make to be of better assistance to you, please let us know. If we all work together we will get through the changes that are not so good! Until next time.

Regular Inspection of Barn Attics Is A Necessity By Murray Elliott

Last winter one of our customers had a partial roof collapse. This was the first instance of a roof collapse of a FGC barn, and hopefully the last. It raised concerns on our part, which led us to check several structures for similar problems and we found none. We strongly urge our customers to check the attics of their barns on an annual basis.

In the case of this collapse, some truss plates were rusted and had deteriorated quite severely. Whether it was from condensation, barn air re-circulating into the attic, or what we do not know. What ever the cause, it can become a serious issue as we witnessed last winter.

This year already in Ontario there has been several barn roof collapses. None of them were FGC structures. These collapses are avoidable with proper monitoring and preventative maintenance.

There has been no loss of life in any of the Ontario barn collapses to date, but if we don't get on top of this issue, it is just a matter of time. Farming falls under the Ontario Health and Safety Act now and they will not accept "I never knew" as an answer. I know everyone is already too busy trying to keep ahead of all the issues facing the industry with not enough staff, and a depressed market, but the way winter is shaping up and the snow I see sitting on everyone's roof, it's a must do

job! We believe several things are contributing to the corrosion of the truss plates. The first is corrosive barn air entering the attic chamber. This can happen through improperly adjusted ceiling air inlets or minimum ventilation rates. If this is constantly happening it doesn't take long to destroy these galvanized plates. They were never designed to withstand that type of environment. This can be remedied by resetting thermostats and tightening up air inlets. Call Ag-Co if you need advice.

Secondly, air is short circuiting out the exhaust fans and into the attic through the eaves. Ag-Co has chimney extensions for fans to get that first stage exhaust out above the barn roof. At the very least, keep the inlets closed around these first stage fans during the three lower ventilation seasons.

Thirdly, snow is blowing into the attic cavities during snow storms. We have to get those eave inlets closed before the bad weather arrives. I leave part of my east side open in the winter, but that means three or four times during the winter when we get an east wind, which always seems to be the worst weather, I have to close those inlets or snow will enter the attic.

Finally we have to pay attention to how much snow is sitting on the roof.

Wood trusses by nature will carry a load heavier than a collapse load for a period of time. As the weight sits there the wood begins to bow. At some point you have a catastrophic event and the truss fails, and the roof comes down like you dropped it out of the sky. If we have 18" of snow on even a portion of a roof, it must be removed. These roofs are designed properly but it is up to us to maintain them like we do for every other part of the barn. Minor maintenance is required constantly in all hog barns. Unfortunately trusses are not in your face and therefore most people don't even think of them.

Again, we strongly urge all our customers to do an inspection now. If you need further advice on how to do this or on remedial action we will be happy to help. Be careful, do not step on the ceilings, wear a good dust mask, and make sure someone is at the bottom of the ladder to assist you if you need help. There should be no gas hazards in the attic but there are a lot of braces to climb over and through. The biggest hazard is falling through the ceiling. Be safe but get into those attics and do a good inspection, it could even save your life!

DAIRY Barn Addition for Rymert & Anneke Los By Ken Vander Eyk



FGC Limited has recently completed a free-stall dairy barn addition for Rymert and Anneke Los just outside Listowel. We are grateful that the Los's chose FGC to be their General Contractor. The barn measures 103' x 398' plus a 40' x 42' sand storage building.



The barn will house 322 milking cows on a sand bed pack. Stalls and head-rails were supplied by CanArm along with their new 2-speed re-circulation fans.

Manure is scraped to the end of the barn and is pumped outside to a large manure storage.

This new facility is attached to their existing barns. According to the Ontario Building Code, no single storey structure over 4800 square meters (51,640 sq. feet) that is to be built of combustible materials (ie wood) can be built without some sort of firewall separation. Once a building is attached to another building(s) it is considered "one" larger building and therefore the total square footage of all buildings must be taken into account.

At this particular project, this was achieved by using a fire-rated overhead door in the link hallway. In the event of a fire, this door will automatically close, thus separating one structure from the adjoining one(s).



Again, FGC Limited would like to thank Rymert & Anneke Los and family for choosing us to be their general contractor. We wish them many years of good health and hope they enjoy their new facility.



FGC Precast Division Increases Product Lines By Mark Vogels



Our precast concrete penning is quick and surprisingly easy to install. It is well suited for retrofit and renovation situations where the current penning no longer suits your requirements or has out lived its useful life. In most situations, we can replace your existing penning and have your barn back into production within a



matter of days.

As a complement to the precast penning products we have offered for the past 11 years, our precast plant is now able to cast various walkway and flatwork pads, which can be used for suspended walkway and ramps, as well as mounting pads for equipment such as generators, fuel tanks, & A/C units.

In June 2008, we purchased the precast product business from Perth Precast in Stratford. We assumed production of agricultural and municipal drainage catch basins as well as underground hydro and utility vaults and parking curbs. We are also constantly at work with specialty items such as municipal signs.

We feel the addition of these products complements our penning products and will allow us to provide our customers, new and old, with a top quality product backed by the service and attention to detail you have come to expect from FGC. Our security for the future is our ability to change without sacrificing quality, not sac-

rificing quality to change for the security of our future.

