



STREU

## LEGAL SPECS



HIRST

## Construction industry working to make 2014 a good new year

**T**he construction industry has a lot to be proud of as it moves into 2014.

Construction will always be a wild business, with a level of entrepreneurial daring found in few other industry groups. Despite the ever-present risks, members of our community never fail to look out for others and make a difference in the lives of our neighbours.

Here are some examples of the industry's generosity in 2013 and other years as it reaches out to the various communities it operates in.

In the face of historic flooding in Calgary, **Ledcor Construction** raised \$50,000 for the **Red Cross**

and **Salvation Army** for flood relief efforts. Since 2007, Ledcor has contributed over \$14.5 million to charitable causes with a focus on pediatric medical facilities and critical illness initiatives across North America, including a recent commitment of \$5 million to **BC Children's Hospital**.

The **Scott Construction Group** and its employees continued to make an outstanding contribution to housing projects like City Gate, Fraser Gardens and the Monroe House.

Scott also donated its management time to complete a full renovation of Honour House, which provides housing for veterans and first

responders who require medical treatment and their families while in Metro Vancouver.

**PCL** and its employees continued to make staggeringly generous donations to the **United Way** and over the past years have committed \$1 million to support **Habitat for Humanity**, which provides housing for low-income families.

At **Graham Construction**, employees donated their time, services and supplies to help renovate the Shirley Dean Pavilion, which houses Fraser Health's Child and Youth Crisis Program.

**Bosa Properties** has established two foundations: the **Bosa Foundation** and the **Blue Sky Foundation**.

Through these foundations, a portion of the profits from each of the company's projects is given back to the community.

**Stantec** is committed to donating 1% of its annual pre-tax profits to charitable and non-profit organizations every year.

**Glotman Simpson**, through its sponsored cycling team, raised \$400,000 for **BC Cancer** during 2013 from their Cypress Challenge Ride to assist in the quest to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.

And this is just a sampling. Construction-based companies, both small and large, donate from their bottom line to support local sports teams, food banks, hospitals

and organizations that thousands of our neighbours rely on daily.

So as we enter into a new year, let's all remember the good that we do in our communities, and let's all continue to make 2014 a happy new year for the many who are disadvantaged and rely upon our support. ♦

*Norm Streu is the president and chief operating officer of the LMS Reinforcing Steel Group. Christopher Hirst is a partner and the leader of the construction and engineering group, Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP. This article was prepared with the assistance of Daniel Thompson, articulated student.*

## Dealing with dust-up wins Winvan safety award

### Shop crew designs water-spraying jackhammer to reduce worker exposure to silica dust

By Jean Sorensen

**W**invan Paving Ltd. couldn't find a dust-abatement attachment for its jackhammers, so it decided to build one. The result, an attachable water sprayer, has won the company the **Vancouver Regional Construction Association's** seventh annual workplace and health safety innovation award sponsored by **WorkSafeBC**.

"There was really nothing available on the market," said equipment and plant superintendent **Rick Rogers**, who searched for days on the Internet and checked with equipment manufacturers.

"Things are progressing in the industry," he said, as equipment users are meeting health and safety concerns that are ahead of what equipment manufacturers are designing for.

The need for a sprayer on a jackhammer, especially in hot, dry conditions, is rooted in a growing health and safety concern that prolonged exposure to silica dust (fine particles of sand) can cause lung damage that only becomes evident in a construction worker's later life.

Winvan risk and safety manager **Carol Weismiller** said silica is one of the most common materials found on any construction site that deals with or contains rock and gravel. Winvan has implemented its own extensive program to limit silica dust



**When Winvan Paving couldn't find a sprayer attachment for its jackhammers to contain dust, it built its own. A Winvan crewmember is shown above using the dust-abatement attachment, which earned the company a VRCA workplace and health safety innovation award sponsored by WorkSafeBC**

"There is a great sense of achievement"

-Carol Weismiller, risk and safety manager, Winvan

in all phases of its operation. Until a jackhammer sprayer could be found, Winvan used a second person and a garden hose with a sprayer to water down the dust that was generated by crewmembers jackhammering pavement or other hard materials that kicked up dust.

But that was labour-intensive, and an attachable sprayer was needed.

"[So] we challenged the shop to develop one," Weismiller said.

It was a process of trial and error.

"We don't have an R & D division, so we tried one thing and it failed, and then we tried something else and it failed, until we found something that worked," Rogers said.

Winvan fabricator **Tom More** was instrumental in the research and development of the prototype model.

Originally, the Winvan team tackling the project thought they could send a compressed air line, similar to that feeding the jackhammer, into a water tank and it would push the water into a sprayer attached to the jackhammer. However, they soon realized that pressurizing a metal drum posed its own safety concern.

"What would happen if a rock hit it?" asked Rogers.

Instead, the crew settled on another solution. They used a 25-gallon beer keg as a holding tank for the water. It could be sited near the air compressor, which fed the jackhammer air through its own dedicated line. A 12-volt recreational trailer pump (the kind found on sinks) was attached to the water tank to pump water into a second, larger line. Both the compressed air and the water lines attach to the jackhammer.

"The two hoses are in one line," said Rogers, as they are bundled together to limit any trip hazard.

The 50-foot line uses quick couplers onto the jackhammer. The jackhammer operator can control the use of the water, which is released in a conical spray so that it captures airborne particulate and drops it to the ground.

The jackhammer can also still be used if the water is turned off. Currently, two units are working in the field with Winvan staff.

The innovation has not only provided a solution to dust abatement and reduced manpower on site, but also created a team atmosphere for problem solving among the shop employees.

"There is a great sense of achievement," Weismiller said. "They are helping their co-workers and reaching our goal of keeping dust exposure down."

She added that the company is pursuing a patent on the device. ♦

PHOTO COURTESY OF WINVAN PAVING