

# Nemanishen Contracting Ltd.

"There is no job too big or too small." That has been, and will continue to be, the withstanding motto of Nemanishen Contracting as they push onward into the new millennium.

As Nemanishen Contracting Ltd. nears its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they take with them a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. The workers consist of owners Peter and Irene Nemanishen and their sons, as well as grandchildren and an average of 35 seasonal workers. With over 90 machines including scrapers, graders, packers, crawlers, backhoes, trucks and more, there truly are no jobs too large to tackle. However, there are always obstacles to overcome.

Right from the beginning there were challenges. Peter and Irene Nemanishen partnered with another individual and started a company in 1963. The company was called P & R Construction and was originally a bush dozing company for farmers. The partner's enthusiasm dissipated, which prompted Peter and Irene to take over sole control of the company. In 1966, Nemanishen Contracting Ltd. was incorporated. Their first ten years was a hump to get over as the company struggled to make its mark on the map.

With a good majority of the work on Hwy 16 from Clavet to Battleford, as well as Lashburn and Maidstone, completed by Nemanishen Contracting, their name was, and continues to be, recognized by smaller and larger businesses everywhere. This does not mean that it was all simple work with easy winnings. There have been many setbacks and feats. One of those incredible feats would be the construction at Bordon Bridge.

The Bordon Bridge project was located on Hwy 16 just west of Langham. It was a contract for preliminary grading approaches and dirt work. The dirt was to be moved from the east side of the North Saskatchewan River to the west side. This was no easy task since the old bridge would not support scrapers hauling dirt. Although the contract was tendered earlier in the year of 1983, full construction did not begin until December. The reason: Nemanishen Contracting had to build an ice bridge in order to haul dirt over the river, which was the first time in Canadian history that a reinforced ice bridge was constructed over a moving body of water. The extremely cold weather helped construct the ice bridge and the warmer temperatures that followed resulted in favorable operating conditions. The project was successfully completed on time with an astonishing saving to taxpayers.

For those who assume that earthmoving is all the same monotonous construction, they are mistaken. There are several diverse contracts, with two particular ones that come to mind. Nemanishen Contracting has created man-made lakes – Warman Lake and Erindale Lake – and over time has learned that there are no jobs that cannot be completed without a little effort and hard work, which makes every job as interesting as the last.

With machines, parts and fuel prices on the rise, there seems to be no end to the increasing challenges. Machines are getting more expensive and monopolies are becoming more common, which, in turn, is decreasing the quality of their products. Repair parts in that matter are becoming harder to locate and order as well as construct. Increasing petroleum costs are another one of those hills that never seems to end.

Fuel prices and mechanical problems are some of the foreseeable and sometimes predictable setbacks. They are built into a budget with repair parts and down-time. However, the weather is always a wet blanket on the fire. There is no way of predicting the weather and no way to budget its effects. These are problems that the company could most certainly live without. In doing their best, they can only strategize on how to control the flow of the water from the rainfalls, drying materials and the proper method for earthmoving.

As the years go by, from those challenges and feats, Nemanishen Contracting has gained knowledge and experience in making it a successful, hard working company that makes the Nemanishen family proud. In building memorable infrastructure with a good, firm ground, the Nemanishens and their employees have built a great construction company with a great solid base.

