

NEMANISHEN CONTRACTING LTD.

Nemanishen has grown its earthwork business by adding equipment and expanding its capabilities.



Company Digs Up the Dirt

Saskatchewan needs new infrastructure and housing because of heavy growth. With experience in the province, local earthwork contractor Nemanishen Contracting Ltd. is eager to serve those needs.

BY STACI DAVIDSON

Nemanishen Contracting Ltd. got its start in 1963 when Peter Nemanishen started bulldozing bush for farmers in Saskatchewan, Canada. Through the years, Nemanishen grew the business by adding equipment and expanding its capabilities.

Eventually, the company evolved into what it is today – an earthwork contractor that has had a significant impact on the infrastructure growth of its province.

Rick Nemanishen, co-owner and son of the founder, estimates his firm has completed approximately 10 percent of the streets in the province's city of Saskatoon. It has performed the dirt work for 75 percent of the area's twinning projects, and has done extensive four-laning work for the province's department of highways. On one of its higher-profile projects, Nemanishen Contracting hauled 200,000 meters of dirt across the ice that covered the Saskatchewan River as part of the construction of a bridge. Nemanishen explains this was the largest am-

ount of dirt to be moved over flowing water in the province's history.

"We are always working on a variety of projects, but most of it is dirt work," he says. "We have built lagoons, grid roads, subdivisions and highways. We have contained potash slurry with tailing dykes and have built many miles of grid roads for the area's rural municipalities. Right now, we are working on a project for Highway 11. We try to keep working with a steady stream of projects, but we don't overextend ourselves. We're doing something right, because almost 70 percent of our business is with repeat clients."

Nemanishen Contracting started work on Highway 11 during the winter. The company ran heavy equipment in frigid temperatures to move frozen ground from a borrow pit to the site of the future twinned section of the highway. Nemanishen explains the firm had to work in the winter – a challenging time for construction in the area – to control the area's excessive amounts of water.

"Last year was pretty wet, so we prepared the site in the winter for construction to take place in August," he says. The frozen mud was placed on geo-textile fabric, which

Nemanishen Contracting Ltd.
HQ: Langham, Saskatchewan
Employees: 45 in the summer
Services: Earthwork
Rick Nemanishen, co-owner:
"We don't believe in fast growth – every year we buy one or two new machines and take on the amount of work we can handle."