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The ROAD BUILDER

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Pinpoint GPS Solutions Inc.
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PM#40787580 13/4 xxii 4(R)
MR. JIM BOT
TERANORTH CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING LIMITED
799 LUOMA RD
SUDBURY ON P3G 1J4



CONTRACTOR PROFILE

Teranorth Construction & Engineering Limited

It's been over 20 years since Carlo and James (Jim) Bot set out to make their mark in Sudbury through the foundation of Teranorth Construction & Engineering Limited. Now, just two decades later, the father and son team have grown the company into one of the most prominent contractors in northern Ontario, and their work has helped reshape The Nickel City and its surrounding communities.

Incorporated on August 14, 1992, Teranorth entered the road building scene as a modest sized contractor with equally modest ambitions. "At the time, we thought we'd be a small- to mid-sized contractor doing everything in the vicinity of Sudbury," says Jim, President of Teranorth. "We started out targeting \$5 million a year in volume, but now we're probably doing 15 times that amount. Things just went well for us here. The province's road program started growing and we grew along with the market."

Choosing Sudbury as Teranorth's home base was a natural pick for Jim and Carlo. As long-time residents, both saw great potential in the region and were eager to play a more active role in its development. "We started Teranorth in Sudbury because—number one—we lived here, and also because my Dad and I have mostly always worked in the north. We saw opportunities here and a need for an experienced highway contractor and a bridge builder based in Sudbury," recalls Jim.

According to Carlo, Teranorth's Chairman, working in Sudbury also provided operational advantages. That is, in addition to being close to numerous northern industries, the reduced traffic makes it easier for Teranorth's crews to schedule work throughout the day and avoid nighttime shifts.

"Most construction people like to work up north," he offers. "There are very few who go back."

A northern portfolio

Backed by their prior experience, an enthusiastic team of dedicated superintendents, and a crew totalling 250 during peak seasons, the company has certainly made an impression on their hometown.

Over the years, Teranorth has worked alongside the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), the Town of Sudbury, and municipal clients on a number of road building and infrastructure projects throughout the region. Its portfolio includes early tunnel work under Highway 11 in Engleheart, bridge rehabilitations in surrounding communities, a highway interchange on Highway 400/38 Wahta, and numerous structures along Highways 11 and 17.

Teranorth has also been one of the major contractors involved in local four-laning initiatives, including the final phase of the four-laning of Highway 11 in Burk's Falls, a significant section of four-laning of Highway 69 near



Alban, and the initial phases of the four-laning of Highway 11/17 between Thunder Bay and Nipigon.

Alongside its road work, the company has put its stamp on bridges throughout Sudbury and neighbouring jurisdictions. Among them are bridge replacements in Timmins, Temagami and Webbwood; and rehabilitations in Fort Frances, Atikokan, Deux-Rivières, Chalk River and Nipigon. Teranorth's work includes a bridge spanning the McKenzie River, a 590-foot long and 90-foot high structure which Carlo recalls as being one of the most memorable projects in the company's recent history. "That was a big challenge for us. We did it in two seasons and we're proud of that one," he reflects.

More recently, Teranorth received industry accolades for its work on Thunder Bay's Hodder Avenue Underpass; a precast concrete box girder project it developed in collaboration with engineer Hatch Mott MacDonald and material supplier Lafarge Canada Inc. The underpass was awarded by the Ready Mixed Concrete Association during its 2013 Ontario Concrete Awards in the category of Structural Design Innovation and Material Development & Innovation for its advanced modular construction approach that relied on prefabricated material for virtually all of its structural elements.

"This particular bridge is very innovative, and it's been receiving a lot of recognition for its design," says Jim. "We were very pleased to be a part of that project."

While Teranorth serves municipal and regional clients across Ontario's north, over two-thirds of its contracts are through the MTO. Naturally, this relationship has influenced Teranorth's growth, as it has required the company to adapt to the Ministry's guidelines and practices.

"We're always being challenged to adapt to the ever-evolving provincial and federal legislations. New requirements are introduced in our contracts on a regular basis, and we do our best to continually learn and adjust our practices to suit," says Jim.

For the team, this has included staying current with tendering methods, quality control, environmental mitigation, and the protection of species at risk to name a few. It has also meant maintaining various qualifications and certifications, including those with the Canadian Welding

Bureau, the Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories, Teranorth's Motor Vehicle Inspection Station, the Atomic Energy Board for the nuclear compaction gauges, its Certificate of Authorization with the Professional Engineers of Ontario, and its Canadian Standards Association certification for precast concrete.

"MTO assigns very comprehensive performance ratings for each contract completed. They track these ratings and Teranorth has always achieved excellent grades in this regard," says Jim. "It is also a requirement to maintain a good overall safety rating for our Commercial Vehicle Operator Record. Teranorth achieved an excellent classification during a recent audit by MTO, and we're always looking for ways to improve."

No doubt, keeping pace with Sudbury's growth, the MTO's operations and all of the associated requirements have kept Teranorth busy. However, it's a challenge both Carlo and Jim accept gladly.

"I'm not the type of guy to play golf or go walk the mall. I just love construction...it lasts, and it's always there forever to see," says Carlo.

Moving ahead, Teranorth's team is looking forward to contracting additional four-lane expansion phases of Highway 69 south of Sudbury and Highway 11 east of Thunder Bay, as well as various bridge replacements throughout the north. It also plans to keep busy with the construction of five new bridges in the season ahead, completing the remainder of the Highway 69 four-lane project near Alban, and working on other major municipal contracts in Sudbury.

"Teranorth has grown rapidly over the past 20 years, and if the province and municipalities continue with their commitments to replace and expand infrastructure in the north, there will always be opportunities for further growth," notes Jim.

Speaking to Teranorth's success, he offers, "We have a good range of experience with a mix of younger and older employees, and we've established a good reputation and a good base to operate from. We're certain the company has a good future and will continue in this industry for years to come."

Teranorth Construction & Engineering Limited can be found online at www.teranorth.com. ■