



# Tribuild Contracting Celebrates 30 Years

Editorial and photos by Mary Savage



Left - right: Fred Baxter, John Leskow, Tony Newman, Matt McCaig, Ali Waissi and (seated) Tina Sehti.

systems to position the company for future growth.

By 2008, Tribuild had grown to 35 full-time employees. They expanded their commercial services to undertake new construction in the data centre industry and the educational sector while continuing to provide office renovations throughout the city. "Each one of our projects is very unique and challenging because every client has a different set of requirements," says Fred Baxter, president.

For over a decade, Tribuild has worked closely with many of Calgary's biggest corporations including Telus, Shaw and Hewlett-Packard to build new data centres and renovate existing structures throughout

southern Alberta. And since 2010, they have built three new schools for the Calgary Board of Education.

For the last two years, the Tribuild crews have been busy downtown working on the Suncor building where they have rebuilt over 50 floors. "The work began with the demolition and we completely rebuilt each floor including most of the mechanical and all of the electrical," says John Leskow, vice president. "On average, we would start a new floor every two weeks and during our busiest period, it was a new floor every week. We could complete a floor - from start to finish in about 12 weeks."

**F**or business owners who remember Alberta during 1982, one acronym comes to mind: NEP - the national energy program. The NEP single-handedly crashed Alberta's otherwise booming economy. In 1982 many local businesses closed up shop, but through that downturn also came a few new businesses and Tribuild Contracting (Calgary) Ltd. was one of those companies.

Tribuild was founded by three men - Fred Baxter, John Leskow and Hans Kreuz - and when the economic landscape changed in 1982, they decided to band together and start a business. After 30 years, Tribuild has earned a great reputation for quality and efficiency. Over the decades, they have worked on hundreds of buildings throughout the city and when you glance at the skyline, you'll be hard-pressed to find a building downtown that they haven't worked on.

Like most startups, Fred's home provided the initial workspace and within six months, they had moved into their first office. Tribuild's foray into the construction industry found them working on small interior office renovations and initially, they completed the majority of the work themselves. Fred's background was estimating, Hans was in project management and John was a journeyman carpenter, and together, they gradually built a small, but solid clientele base.

By the late 1980s, Tribuild had landed a few large-scale projects and it proved to be a turning point. They hired Tony Newman to manage sales, they hired more tradesmen to keep up with demand and they implemented management

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**Congratulations to  
Tribuild Contracting (Calgary) Ltd.  
on their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**  
We wish them many more years of success.

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The Suncor building is also a LEED project – making the whole scenario a bit more challenging. “Since it’s a LEED “gold” project, we couldn’t simply toss everything into a dumpster,” explains Fred. “Everything that is removed from the site needs to be sorted, packaged, logged and recycled. Anything that comes onto the site has to be checked against applicable environmental standards, sourced or manufactured locally (if possible) and fully documented,” he adds.

“Energy efficient electrical and mechanical systems must exceed standard building requirements. All of the floors that were completed under the LEED standards were put through air quality testing by a third party, usually within a day of the furniture being assembled. Tribuild is very proud of the fact that all of the floors tested in this manner have passed,” Fred explains.

Not only do they stand for quality, but Tribuild has earned a stellar reputation for being very efficient. “During our peak time on the Suncor building, we had about 70 employees and another 100 subtrades all working on site with 11 floors underway – simultaneously,” says Fred.

Five years ago, Matt McCaig joined the company as a journeyman carpenter and within a few years, he had moved from the field into the office. Today, Matt is the general manager and represents the future face of the company. “We take great pride in producing quality work that’s usually accomplished ahead of schedule or under very tight timelines,” says Matt. “We don’t just meet the client’s needs, we excel at making it all come together.”

Along with quality and efficiency, safety is also a top priority and they have the track record to prove it. “In 30 years, we have never had anyone seriously injured on the job,” says John. “We have been COR certified for over a decade and we were one of the first construction companies to complete the certification requirements. We have always taken safety very seriously and we pride ourselves on being a leader in this industry.”

After 30 years, both Fred and John still enjoy every aspect of the business – from helping clients find solutions to hiring new tradesmen. “I still enjoy working with the clients and negotiating the construction management projects where everybody is working toward a common goal,” adds Fred.

“It’s important our employees take pride in their work!” John adds. “Our employees are integral to our continued success, so it’s important they enjoy what they do and go home safely at the end of each day.”

Looking forward, Matt sees the ongoing evolution of the business. “The company isn’t set in its ways: we are constantly evolving and adapting. We really enjoy the challenges associated with complex projects and those challenges necessitate our evolution,” Matt remarks.

As Tribuild celebrates their 30th anniversary, they would like to extend a note of gratitude to all of their clients, employees, subtrades and business partners who have helped to make the first 30 years such a success. “We have always had a ‘can-do’ mentality, but we couldn’t have done it without the right support!” adds John with a grin. •

# Congratulations

to everyone at Tribuild for successfully contributing to Calgary’s construction industry over the last 30 years.

Best Wishes for another 30 years.



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