



BUILDINGS

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*Grand Beach washroom's
rammed earth wall.*



Photo courtesy of MMP Architects.

PROJECT PROFILE

MODERN ENGINEERING MEETS A TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION METHOD

You can't get much greener in construction than by using materials extracted from the ground within 500 metres of a project site.

Such was the case of the exceptional rammed earth wall on the beach side of the Grand Beach washrooms. The wall is made from nearby sand, gravel, and clay and is stabilized by mortar. Westland Construction was proud to serve as General Contractor on this exciting project. *Continued on pg. 2*

Continued from pg. 1 Incorporating the rammed earth wall was the brainchild of Michael Acht, a former intern and now a Senior Architect with MMP Architects in Winnipeg.

"We were very excited about the idea," said Chris Daly, a Principal at MMP. "A rammed earth wall had never been done in Manitoba before. We had to do our due diligence to make sure that a wall like this could even work in our climate. The engineers studied it carefully to make sure it met the right performance specs."

Rammed earth walls are popular on the west coast and in the southwest United States, and of course they were common thousands of years ago before the era of modern construction.

"We wanted to show off how natural materials could be used," said Daly. "It's an interesting practice and this project was a good way to introduce it to the Manitoba marketplace."

The wall took about three months to build, considerably longer than the cinder block walls that comprise the rest of the structure. The natural materials had to be mechanically compressed and re-inforced by concrete as the wall went up just a few inches at a time.

In the end, it is 85 feet long, 16 feet high, and 16 inches thick. The expertise to erect a wall like this is not available in Manitoba yet, so some of the trades had to be brought in from Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.

"There was a major storm that did a lot of damage to the beach including ripping up sections of the boardwalk," said Daly. "The rammed earth wall was not affected at all. It's not just natural, it's durable." 🏡



Photo courtesy of MMP Architects.

- ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTING:** MMP Architects
- STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING:** Wolfrom Engineering
- MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING:** Williams Engineering
- GENERAL CONTRACTING:** Westland Construction

CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS; CELEBRATING THE FUTURE

DID YOU KNOW?

YESTERDAY



In 1984, historic **Ross House** was moved to its current location at Joe Zuken Heritage Park. Westland Construction was called in to renovate the building, which served as the first Post Office in Western Canada. It is one of the few surviving examples of Red River frame architecture in Winnipeg. Today, Ross House serves as a museum.

TODAY



Westland Construction is hard at work with repairs at **Manitoba Hydro's Fish Hatchery in Grand Rapids**, including: concrete and mechanical repairs to external fish tanks; concrete repairs to the hatchery building bridge and balcony slab; rehabilitation of two pump houses; and several mechanical and electrical upgrades.

TOMORROW



Westland Construction has been selected as the Construction Manager for **The Village Junction Condos** project at 369 Stradbrook Avenue. The 36-unit complex is now in the tendering phase. We look forward to working with owner/developer, Ventura Developments, and lead consultant, Prairie Architects. For more information about this exciting project, visit <http://villagejunction.ca/>.

THE GROSE REPORT

THOUGHTS FROM WESTLAND'S CEO



Peter Grose

There are probably some folks who think that construction guys put their feet up all winter as projects come to a standstill.

That's hardly the case. In fact, at Westland

Construction, we're as busy in the winter as we are the rest of the year. Certainly, indoor work proceeds without interruption, and we can obviously sit in heated rooms with hot coffee planning our next projects.

In fact, the winter months are an ideal time to start planning and budgeting a project. Planning, getting drawings, permits, and tendering all take time. Winter provides a

great opportunity for making progress on paperwork.

That all said, even outdoors, our crews are on the job.

Over the years, we have found that when timed right, working in the winter can save our clients time and money. For example, doing foundation work in the winter months means that we're heating a smaller, more defined space when we work. By the time we're ready to move up from the foundation to the interior of a building, the outdoor temperatures have become more moderate. This means that we don't have to try and heat open spaces. At the foundation, there is simply less air to heat.

The technology for heating foundations during winter builds has become pretty common, but it's a fact that Westland Construction was an early pioneer in the field. In 1982, our founder, Norm Young, filed a patent for a "Portable Construction Heating System." Norm's innovative system involved a series of hoses circulating a

glycol solution around a space to heat the area. Much safer and much more economical than a forced-air system.

With apologies to Bob and Doug McKenzie, Norm's system was known as "The Hoser" and variations of it are in wide use today.

"...when timed right, working in the winter can save our clients time and money."

So, when dreaming about your first or next project, talk to us about the potential of winter work before you draw conclusions about what a schedule might look like. What can happen with a chill in the air might surprise you.

Good day, eh! ?

Peter Grose is the Chief Executive Officer of Westland Construction Ltd.

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INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

THE DOWNTOWN COMES ALIVE

How does a retired landscape architect spend his time? Well, if that landscape architect is Garry Hilderman, he spends his time working as, well, a landscape architect.

As a volunteer Board member with Friends of Upper Fort Garry, Hilderman is actively involved in the design work on the development of the UFG site which extends from Assiniboine Avenue to Broadway, and from Fort Street to Main Street.

For Hilderman, who owns a condo on Waterfront Drive, the UFG development is another sign that Winnipeg's downtown is experiencing an exciting revival.

"It used to be that all new development in Winnipeg was focused on adding new homes and buildings on raw prairie, around the previous developments," said Hilderman. "It was seen as easier to build outward than to look at infill development."

In the last couple of decades, said Hilderman, planners are starting to see the potential economic benefit of downtown development.

"When you build outward, you need to consider new infrastructure, from sewers to sidewalks to schools," he said. "When you build downtown, there is already an established infrastructure."

Hilderman thinks that Winnipeggers' attitudes started to change with the development of The Forks and Shaw Park. Attitudes have only improved with the addition of the new Manitoba Hydro building, the MTS Centre, and

the development of Red River College downtown.

Hilderman and his partner, Faye, love the downtown lifestyle.

They walk to their favourite destinations and feel safe when doing so: "When we first moved, we felt like we were in a city we didn't know. It was like being on vacation!" With all the positives of downtown renewal, there are some cautions

Continued on pg. 4



Garry Hilderman, C.M., B.L.A., M.L.A., MALA, FCSLA, enjoyed a 40-year career as a landscape architect. He retired six years ago from Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram.



Continued from pg. 3 from a construction perspective. "When you are working on an older property, there are certainly some unknowns," he explained. "There might be structures or other surprises underground that made sense in their day, but that might not be well documented. The same holds true from landscape architecture projects, like the spaces between buildings and larger initiatives like Upper Fort Garry."

The UFG site, explained Hilderman, presented a number of interesting archaeological surprises. Builders, contractors, architects, and others have to learn how to deal with the unexpected from a budget and schedule perspective.

"Westland has been great to work with on the

UFG project," said Hilderman. "They've helped us cope well with change and they've helped the whole team become more nimble and versatile."

Hilderman expects that the commercial and residential revitalization of the downtown will continue – in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

"With lots of people living downtown, we can grow into a healthier community; our cash-starved municipal government can save money; and, from an individual perspective, it's a wonderful way to live," said Hilderman. "A strong downtown makes Winnipeg more attractive."

For more information about the Upper Fort Garry project, visit <http://www.upperfortgarry.com/>.

WESTLAND PERSONALITY

CRAIG HILDEBRANDT



"Every single day is different," said Craig Hildebrandt, a Westland Construction Project Manager of almost three years. "With the variety of projects I have, every day feels like a brand new ball game."

Craig Hildebrandt

As a Project Manager, Hildebrandt describes

his job as an opportunity "to work with many different people to achieve a common goal – a great project that's on time and on budget."

At any given moment, Hildebrandt might be managing between five and seven projects, keeping an eye on the paperwork, working hand in hand with Site Superintendents, and addressing challenges before they turn into problems. He likes to visit every site at least once every couple of weeks during a build. "I like to think my management style is to be focused and calm," said Hildebrandt, who is certified as a carpenter under the Red Seal Program, recognizing excellence in the trades. "When there is a risk of a problem, I like to bring people together face-to-face to look for solutions."

Hildebrandt grew up on his family's dairy farm (later converted to a beef farm)

near Steinbach, and started working on construction jobs at the age of 13.

He moved into Winnipeg for university and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Manitoba. While at school, he worked at a residential/agricultural framing business on the side.

After graduating, he accepted a position at an engineering firm doing hydraulic modelling. "It was interesting, but being indoors on the computer all the time was driving me crazy," said Hildebrandt. So, he partnered with the framing company where he had previously worked, and ventured out to make the company his career.

After a couple years full time in the framing business, Hildebrandt had a number of discussions with Westland's Peter Grose, whom he had met while he attended university. Hildebrandt had been questioning whether he could enjoy a lifetime of framing, and "Pete made his case, and I guess I realized that what I really wanted all along was a management position in construction. I wanted the variety, the responsibility, and the challenge," said Hildebrandt. "I've ended up where I want to be."

When not managing construction projects, Craig might be found renovating his house, golfing, or fishing in and around Manitoba.

Craig Hildebrandt is a Project Manager at Westland Construction.

Westland Construction is a full-service General Contractor serving the institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors through new construction, civil support, and renovations. We care about process and getting it right – for the buildings you see and the infrastructure you don't.

Westland Construction – building a better way for over 30 years.

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