

Illuminations

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Canad Inn and Its Waterpark was Worth the Wait

Good things come to those who wait, so the saying goes. And that certainly seems to be the case for Grand Forks, now that the Canad Inn has opened next to the Alerus Center. The hotel boasts 233 rooms, three restaurants, and a gaming lounge, besides its impressive Splashers of the South Seas Waterpark. The complex is definitely an attraction for visitors and residents alike, but the journey was a long one, as Bergstrom Electric staff know first-hand.

"I remember when we were working on the Alerus Center itself back in 1999," says Cliff Moen, company president "There was talk that a hotel might come in on the north end, that the City was talking to potential developers."

Nothing came of those discussions and the Alerus Center opened in 2001 with only a parking lot on its north end. Then in January of 2004, Moen got a call from representatives of Canad Inn.

"They were in town over the New Year's holiday and wanted to see our operations, tour our facility and talk

about some ideas," Moen explains.

Another year after that, in February of 2005, plans for a hotel and waterpark were officially complete and proposals for electrical construction were requested from area contractors.

Bergstrom Electric reached final negotiations and was awarded the project.

"Originally, they had 219 rooms and a waterpark," explained Russ Penn, project manager for Bergstrom Electric. "Our estimate included about 19,000 man-hours. After we were awarded the project, they started adding things - the Altos restaurant,

Above: The main entrance to the Canad Inn hotel and waterpark makes a grand statement.

Bottom left: The Altos Restaurant was added to the project later and incorporated some unique lighting designs.



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the L' Bistro, the Tavern United, and then 14 penthouse-like suites on the undeveloped first floor.”

Despite the changes and additions to the plans, once work started on the project, time was of the essence. Bergstrom staff started work in May of 2006 and completed the main project by April 1, 2007. One restaurant and the penthouse-on-main suites were finished a few months later. By the completion of all construction, Bergstrom had 31,858 man-hours of work into the complex.

Although the Splashers Waterpark was a unique feature, it wasn't new to Bergstrom staff who assisted on the Seven Clans Casino Waterpark in Thief River Falls.

“Actually, the thing that made this project kind of different was the mix of commercial and residential construction,” notes Penn. “The entire first and second floors are commercial, but we had to have a fire barrier at the roofline of the second floor and treat it as residential from there on up.”

The owners also included quite a bit of Canadian or offshore lighting in the restaurants, which sometimes was difficult to get to the project as they had to go through customs.

A Contractor Appreciation Day was held toward the end of the project and contractors were allowed to bring their families into the waterpark for a day. The



The Splashers of the South Seas Waterpark at the Canad Inn includes a variety of slides, swings, and water depths for all ages.

contractors were also used to help test out the kitchen staff before the complex opened its doors. “There were maybe 200 guys on site and we only had a 1/2 hour for lunch, so it was a good challenge for them,” laughs Penn.

The most unusual request, however, came recently and indicates a little something about the visitors to the hotel. “They needed us to install European to American adaptors so they

can plug their hair dryers and curling irons into our American outlets,” notes Penn.

Grand Forks and East Grand Forks residents seem to enjoy the complex as well and the waterpark has become a popular birthday party site for youngsters.

“It's been a great addition to the community,” concurs Moen, “and we're glad that when it did finally happen, we got a chance to be a part of it.” ♦

Spotlight on: *Mike Yri*

The Operations Manager of Bergstrom Electric's Bismarck office, Mike Yri is originally from New Rockford, North Dakota. He attended IEC Dakotas Apprenticeship Training and has worked for Bergstrom Electric for 10 years. He is also currently an instructor for IEC Dakotas in Bismarck. Mike and his wife Alaina live south of Bismarck and have a two-year old son, Lucas. They are expecting their second child in May.

What was your most memorable project with Bergstrom Electric? *The summer of 2005. We just opened the shop in Bismarck and were awarded some large projects with tight time frames. Everyone had to put in a lot of hours to get the projects done on time. It was not easy but with everybody's hard work we completed the projects on time.*

What is your favorite part of the job? *Seeing the end result of a project.*



What are your hobbies? *Spending time with family & friends, snowmobiling, deer hunting, 4-wheeling & fishing.* ♦

Bergstrom Bismarck Office Fills a Need in the State

The newest Bergstrom Electric office is making its mark in central North Dakota, completing a variety of projects with the same high quality and fast delivery that has become a Bergstrom trademark.

Opened in March of 2005, the Bismarck office is managed by Mike Yri and has 12 field employees.

“We started out doing the “Lowe’s” in Bismarck,” explains Yri. “Originally, we were just flying our crew down there every week, but we could see the potential. There was a lot of other substantial jobs coming in that area and they didn’t have enough contractors out there to do all that work.”

Currently Bergstrom’s Bismarck office does approximately \$1.5 Million worth of electrical contracting work each year. Along with Lowe’s, other Bergstrom Electric projects included Athena Square, the Golden Corral restaurant, the Bismarck Tribune, Cottonwood Apartments, Best Buy and Pet Smart.

Upcoming projects for 2008 include the University of Mary’s School of Business, Simile Middle School, and the McLean City Law Enforcement Center. ◇



Bergstrom Electric projects in central North Dakota include the Library Square apartments in Mandan (above), the Best Buy store and Pet Smart (below).



“In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”

- Mark Twain

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.”

- Doug Larson



IN MEMORY OF: *Gene C. Morey*

Bergstrom Electric employees were saddened to learn of the sudden death of coworker Gene Morey on January 26, 2008. Gene had started work with the company in February of 2001, developing and leading their data telephone division. He was 57 years old and will be remembered as a good family man who loved fishing and the Green Bay Packers. Bergstrom Electric extends its sympathies to all who knew him.



Cliff Notes

Greetings friends -

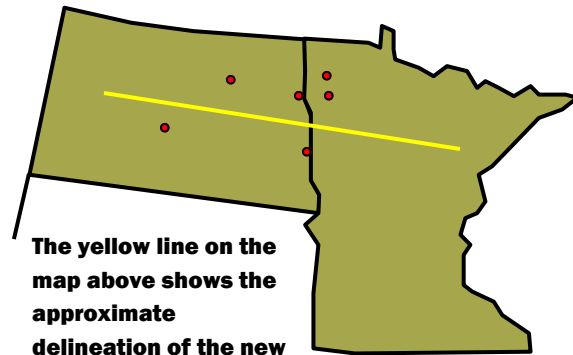
It's been a busy few months here at Bergstrom's since our last newsletter. For one thing, we held our 18th Annual Employee Meeting at the Alerus Center in March. All 140+ Bergstrom Electric employees attended and we spent the entire day reviewing the past year's accomplishments, talking about the upcoming year, reviewing important benefits and safety information, and recognizing those employees who have earned honors or reached milestones in their years of service.

We completed over \$24 million of work in Electrical Construction in 2007, including the Canad Inn in Grand Forks, three Wal-Mart's (in Crookston, Bottineau, and Dilworth), the Turtle Mountain High School, Ojibwa Millennium School, the Polk County Justice Center, NDSU's Memorial Union,

UND's new parking structure, and many others. This year promises to be even better, with numerous projects already underway.

We also used the Annual Meeting this year to introduce an organizational change for our company - we have stream-lined our offices into two regions and appointed Regional Managers. James Schmidt will manage the Northern Region, which will include our Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Crookston, and Thief River Falls Offices. Steve Mundahl will manage the Southern Region, with our Fargo and Bismarck offices. It's an exciting change that we believe will allow us to better coordinate our estimating procedures, stream-line our communications, and provide functional opportunities to expand.

Our other goals for 2008 include keeping our quality employees by providing



The yellow line on the map above shows the approximate delineation of the new Bergstrom Electric Northern and Southern regions. The red dots indicate Bergstrom offices.

training and other opportunities for personal growth, improving our communications through this newsletter and our website, and expanding our market share by offering new services to our customers, such as thermal imaging and energy management systems.

Spring is always an exciting time of year and we certainly feel it this year at Bergstrom Electric! Hope you are, too.

- Cliff Moen, President



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