

FACILITY FOCUS

The Official Publication of the Alberta Educational Facilities Administrators' Association

SPRING 2023



Ben Calf Robe School replacement includes cultural space for Indigenous students



Grande Prairie welcomes new École Catholique Louis Riel School after nearly two years of construction

Alberta Roofing Contractors Association highlights importance of roof maintenance



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Kelsey James

Welcome to the spring 2023 issue of *Facility Focus* magazine, the official publication of the Alberta Educational Facilities Administrators Association (AEFAA). We are pleased to present to you this edition, as we have lots of exciting content to share.

On page four, AEFAA president Kevin Henderson provides an update on the upcoming spring conference, which is being held at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Kananaskis, Alt. from May 15 to 18. Henderson, who is entering the final months of his presidency with the association, says the theme for the event is sports, and the AEFAA has secured Calgary Stampede running back and 2019 Canadian Football Hall of Fame inductee Jon Cornish to speak at the opening ceremonies.

This issue of *Facility Focus* also highlights different projects within the industry, including profiles of four new schools in Edmonton and Grande Prairie: Ben-Calf Robe-St. Clare Catholic Elementary/Junior High School, Joan Carr Catholic Elementary/Junior High School, École Catholique Louis Riel School and Grande Prairie Composite High School.

On page 18, you will learn about Caliber Sport System's commitment to providing recreational and educational facilities across Canada with installing outstanding athletic flooring and gymnasium equipment, as well as the other maintenance services the company offers.

These stories are just a small preview of what we have in store for you in the spring 2023 issue of *Facility Focus* magazine. We hope you enjoy this issue and help spread the message about our publication.

Finally, we wish to thank all the companies who

have contributed a story for this issue of *Facility Focus*. Special thanks go out to the following contributors, including:

- Caliber Sport Systems
- Alberta Roofing Contractors Association

We invite all interested companies to share their news and editorial ideas with us. If you would like to contribute a story for future issues of *Facility Focus*, please contact myself at kelsey@delcommunications.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue! ■

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Message from the AEFAA president **Kevin Henderson**

As I enter the final months of my presidency with the AEFAA, our fraternity has never been more relevant or important to the membership. I think of our membership as a group of experts in the field of educational facilities. We mentor, brainstorm, network, teach and share best practices in all things facilities.

This year's spring conference is being held at the beautiful Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Kananaskis, Alt. The theme for the 2023 event is sports. Fitting to the theme, we've lined up former Calgary Stampede running back and 2019 Canadian Football Hall of Fame inductee Jon Cornish to speak at our opening ceremonies.

Our fall workshop was a tremendous success and

once again hosted at the Jasper Park Lodge in Jasper, Alt. A great PD session was put on by SAIT and the weather was fantastic, allowing for longer evenings of networking.

The AEFAA executive has put in a lot of work over the last year to revamp the certification process and we are now at a point where we are accepting applications for certification. Robert Krahn has spearheaded this massive undertaking and will be unveiling the updated manual and application process at the spring conference. Thank you, Robert, for all your great work on this important project.

Agreeing to serve on the AEFAA executive in the spring of 2018 was one of the best decisions I've made in my facilities management career. By saying "yes," I've had the opportunity to organize two trade shows and two guest speakers. Participating in the organizing of the spring conference and fall workshops has given me such an appreciation for the work, effort and time that goes into making these events a success. The joy I've received from contributing to something bigger than myself has been immeasurable. I am truly grateful to have been able to serve with such a great team over these past five years.

At our general meeting this year we will be looking for volunteers to serve as directors on the executive. Please reach out to the executive if you are interested in volunteering.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Kananaskis! ■



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TOGETHER, LET'S EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES.



Replacement Ben-Calf Robe-St. Clare Catholic Elementary/Junior High School honours Indigenous culture

A newly replaced Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 9 school in Edmonton is using Indigenous learning initiatives alongside 21st Century Learning education objectives.

“In the 1980s, the Indigenous community approached the Edmonton Catholic School Division’s Board of Trustees to start a school that would serve Indigenous students,” said Edmonton Catholic School Division board chair Sandra Palazzo. “The initiative started as a program at another school, but later moved to St. Clare Catholic School.”

The Alberta government approved a replacement of the Ben Calf Robe-St. Clare Catholic Elementary/Junior High School in Edmonton’s northeast Montrose

Aside from Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programming, the school also has Cree language and culture programs, which include Indigenous dancing, drumming and singing, Métis jigging, fiddling and singing, Elder teachings, smudging, pipe ceremonies, sweat lodge teachings, round dance dancing, drumming and singing, regalia making, beading and land teachings.

community. The project cost of \$25.6 million was shared with the Alberta government (which funded \$17.8 million), the federal government (which contributed \$6 million through its Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) and the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, which provided \$1.8 million.

Construction began in September 2020 and the new replacement school opened on August 31, 2022. The school is two storeys high and over 6,936 square metres in size. Jade Sawchuk was the project lead with the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division and the architect

was BR2 Architecture and sub-consultants included Protostatix Engineering Consultants Inc., D.A. Fox Engineering Ltd. and MCW Consultants Ltd. Construction was led by Delnor Construction Ltd.

The replacement school’s design integrates leading-edge learning practices, resulting in numerous flexible learning environments that include connectivity to the outdoors. A kitchen was created for the delivery of food programs offered at the school, and the facility provides dedicated cultural spaces to support Indigenous teachings, reflecting the significance of Indigenous culture in the educational programming.



The project cost of \$25.6 million was shared with the Alberta government (which funded \$17.8 million), the federal government (which contributed \$6 million through its Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) and the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, which provided \$1.8 million.

The design resulted in a durable, sustainable building that enhances student learning, safety and accessibility. The replaced school will achieve LEED Silver certification and the project has received solar technology system funding from the Government of Alberta in the amount of up to \$750,000 to reduce the school's energy costs and contribute to the province's commitment to help the environment.

One advisor instrumental in the project and who worked closely with the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division is Elder Betty Letendre.

Elder Letendre provides language, cultural wisdom and guidance to students and division staff based on the Pimatisiwin teachings, which include growth/change, pride,

healing, self-esteem, unity, identity, tradition and culture.

When the school project was in its infancy stages, local Elders were invited to attend meetings to discuss design and other details. Elder Letendre, along with a few of the Division's superintendents, travelled across Canada to look at other schools being built with Indigenous Peoples in mind.

"We were involved right from the blueprints to the designing, everything," Elder Letendre said. "There were so many things we were a part of."

As for the design elements of the school, Elder Letendre's favourite features are the "beauty of the light" and "openness of the classrooms where children are educated at their level."

Elder Letendre wants the

community to know this is not a regular school; it has a spirit of culture, language and high academics where everyone can feel welcome.

"The tipi above the school honours the history of the children and ancestors," Elder Letendre said. "The colours are focused on the significance of the number four: the four elements of fire, water, air, wind, the four directions."

One of the biggest challenges was site construction, ECSD project lead Jade Sawchuk said. The replacement school was built next to the original school, so there was no space for laydown areas and materials needed to be stored within the school footprint as it took shape.

"Crews also dealt with materials shortages and delivery delays



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due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Sawchuk added. “Through the collaborative efforts of everyone involved, the project was finished. Crews will tackle landscaping this spring.”

Ben Calf Robe/St. Clare Catholic Elementary/Junior High School has a multidisciplinary team that takes a holistic approach to student development guided by Catholic and Indigenous values, according to the school’s website. Aside from Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programming, the school also has Cree language and culture programs, which include Indigenous dancing, drumming and singing, Métis jigging, fiddling and singing, Elder teachings, smudging, pipe ceremonies, sweat lodge teachings, round dance dancing, drumming and singing, regalia making, beading and land teachings.

“It’s wonderful to have a school designed for Indigenous students with principles and values that are important to the Indigenous community at the foundation,” Sawchuk said. “Having a ceremonial space and architecture that respects tipi teachings is meaningful not only to the students, families and staff, but also to the community. Every inch of the school is an intentional, thoughtful space.”

“When I first came in the school when it was finished, I cried because I just couldn’t believe its beauty,” Elder Letendre added. “The school is an extension of the community, and the community benefits from our school. It honours not only Indigenous People, but others who live in the community. We welcome them as partners, and that relationship is so important.” ■



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AEFAA

member profile

By Kelsey James

This spring, the Alberta Educational Facilities Administrators Association (AEFAA) will be welcoming its new president.

Rod Swartzenberger will be stepping into the role after being involved with the association for five years. He began as the south zone rep before becoming trade show director while sitting on the board of directors.

“Communicating with and learning from each other is where I put huge value in our organization,” Swartzenberger said. “It’s a great place for collaboration and learning. Everybody has the same issues and we work together to deal with them.”

Swartzenberger, who was born in Calgary and raised near Lethbridge, is also currently facility services supervisor with Palliser School Division. In this role, he looks after 18 schools, as well as the division’s own office building, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations, all the future planning and all forms of maintenance, including during the summer months when students and staff are no longer on site.

“When this job came up, I felt like I had the right knowledge to be able to come in, look after the facilities and help with future planning,” Swartzenberger said, adding he has been working with Palliser Regional School Division since 2018.

Swartzenberger entered the carpentry program at Lethbridge College when he was 20 years old. He had been raised on a farm in the area, and felt carpentry was the closest thing he could do that “felt like getting back to being a farmer.”

“When I was in university, in my second-year, I got spring fever. I went and helped a guy build a garage during reading week and he said, ‘If you’re looking for a summer job, come and see me,’” Swartzenberger added. “The summer job turned into continuing on and starting my apprenticeship as a carpenter. I always

enjoyed building things, and I like being able to be outside and do a lot of hands-on work.”

Swartzenberger went on to earn his journeyman Red Seal Carpentry ticket in 1996. He has since worked in commercial, residential and institutional construction in Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. In 2000, he became site superintendent with Ward Bros. Construction Inc., where he worked for nearly 19 years.

“At that time, I did 10 major school modernizations on top of installing the portables—or modulars—and other miscellaneous work at the schools,” Swartzenberger said. “That’s where I learned about the mechanical and electrical systems. When you do a modernization, you still have the old system while you’re installing the new one. I learned how to maintain these old systems so they were kept running while we were renovating and installing the new stuff.”

Swartzenberger has worked on builds with six different school divisions throughout Alberta. Completing one modernization can take anywhere from 16 months to two years, he said.

“I learned how the schools function and worked with them while we were renovating so we weren’t disrupting the kids’ learning,” Swartzenberger added.

Currently, Swartzenberger is working on completing a new high school/recreation center in the town of Coaldale. He was part of the project’s initial value scope meetings and helped secure an architectural firm for design. The recreation center is expected to be completed in spring 2024, and the school will be open for students in fall 2024.

In terms of his involvement with the AEFAA, Swartzenberger is looking forward to helping continue grow the association in his new role as president.

“I don’t know what I’m up against, but I’m willing to give it everything I can,” he said. ■

AEFAA member benefits



Membership Advantages:

- AEFAA memberships can attend all AEFAA functions. Currently, AEFAA conducts a spring conference and trade show that hosts professional development sessions pertinent to the field of educational facilities and their safe operation and maintenance. The tradeshow component of this event showcases all the prominent vendors that provide our industry with the necessary and new goods and services required to properly operate and maintain these educational facilities.
- AEFAA also conducts an annual fall workshop. The primary function of this event is to provide continuing education for its membership. The sessions are hosted by SAIT and provide the attendees with the latest in educational requirements for managers and supervisors pertinent to our industry.
- Members also receive copies of the *Facility Focus*, magazine which focuses on all things related to the educational facility operational and maintenance. There are two editions: spring and fall.
- AEFAA members also gain access to the members area of our website. The members area of the website has a platform designed to promote networking with other colleagues from similar educational jurisdictions.
- AEFAA also hosts spring workshops. These events range from facility tours to further education on current challenges.
- Members are also made aware of current and new insurance facility requirements, as well as updates from Alberta Education that are presented at both major spring and fall sessions.

Associate Membership Advantages (Exhibitors & Vendors):

- This membership enables all vendors and exhibitors to be invited to participate in the annual spring trade show.
- It also enables those who hold this membership to possibly be invited to the fall workshop.
- Members will receive two copies, spring and fall, of the *Facility Focus* magazine.
- Associate members are also able to advertise in *Facility Focus* magazine.
- Members will also receive the full AEFAA delegate membership contact list, complete with names, school jurisdiction, position, phone numbers and email addresses. ■



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AEFAA 2023 Spring Conference & Trade Show

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Monday May 15

11:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Golf – Kananaskis Golf Club – 18 holes	Kananaskis Golf & Country Club
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Conference Registration	Conference Lobby
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Presidents Reception – Sponsored Event – Cash Bar	Rockies Room

Tuesday May 16

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast	Rockies Room
8:00 am- 9:00 am	Conference Registration	Conference Lobby
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Keynote Speaker – Jon Cornish	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
10:30am – 10:45 am	Break	Foyer
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Website Orientation	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
11:00 am – 12:00pm	AGM	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
12:00 pm – 1:30pm	Dinner	Rockies Room
2:00 pm – 6:00:pm	Trade Show	Convention Center
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner	Convention Center
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Draws	Convention Center
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Woody's – Sponsored Event – Private Function	Woody's Pub

Wednesday May 17

7:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Rockies Room
9:00 am- 9:45 am	Gym Floor Refinishing, cleaning & Maintenance	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
9:45 am - 10:00 pm	Break	Foyer
10:00am – 10:45 pm	Gymnasium Equipment & Hardware	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
10:45am – 11:00 am	Break	Foyer
11:00am – 12:00 pm	Gymnasium Floor Types and Construction	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Rockies Room
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Alberta Education IMR/CMR Update	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break	Foyer
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Marsh Insurance	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Free Time	
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Banquet & Entertainment	Convention Center

Thursday May 18

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast	Rockies Room
8:30 am – 10:00 am	P D Session Presented by SAIT	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
10:00am – 10:15 am	Break	Foyer
10:15am – 12:00 am	P D Session Presented by SAIT cont'd	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Rockies Room
1:00 p m -2:30 pm	P D Session Presented by SAIT cont'd	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break	Foyer
2:45 pm- 4:00pm	P D Session Presented by SAIT cont'd	Mt. Kidd Ballroom
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Free Time	
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Networking Evening c/w Food & Beverages – Sponsored Event Convention Center	

Partner's Program

Monday May 15

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Golf – Kananaskis Golf Club – 18 holes
5:00 pm – 8:00pm	Conference Registration
5:00 pm – 10:00:pm	Presidents Reception – c/w Exhibitor Sponsored Buffet – Cash Bar

Tuesday May 16

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Painting Session - Hotel hosted
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Session cont'd
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Tradeshow
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Draws in Trade Show Area
8:00 pm – 12:00 pm	Woody's – Exhibitor Sponsored Evening

Wednesday May 17

7:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am- 11:00 pm	Nature Walk
11:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Shuttle to Canmore – Lunch & Shopping - Western Transportation
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Free Time
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Cocktails
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Banquet & Entertainment

Thursday May 18

7:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Nordic Spa
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Nordic Spa cont'd
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	AEFAA Sponsored Networking Evening c/w Food & Beverages

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Grande Prairie community welcomes École Catholique Louis Riel School

By Kelsey James

The Grande Prairie community recently welcomed the new École Catholique Louis Riel School after nearly two years of construction for the Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School Division.

“It’s a French immersion Kindergarten to Grade 9 school in the newer development of O’Brien Lake,” said Alberta Infrastructure senior project manager Ahsan Ahmed.

The school was budgeted at \$36.1 million. Design plans started at the end of 2018, and construction started in September 2020. Approval and funding for the project came from the Alberta government.

“The Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School Division wanted a bigger gymnasium, so

there was a contribution from the school board to have a larger gym than other schools in the area,” said Ahmed. “There are solar panels on the wall, which gives students, staff and visitors the opportunity to see it has these panels.”

Lear Construction Management Ltd. was the general contractor on the project while Stantec Architecture Ltd. was the architect. The school, which welcomed students in September 2022, is over 80,000 square feet, sits at two storeys high and has a capacity for 900 students.

“The process went well. We had a lot of synergy, and a lot of input from the school board, architect and Alberta Infrastructure based on our past experiences,” said Ahmed. “The school board already did previous

projects before coming on this one, including a high school with Stantec, so they were already coming with a lot of knowledge.”

The school design places an emphasis on 21st Century Learning education objectives, including making sure the building is well-lit and has lots of natural light.

Construction ended in May 2022, said Lear Construction business development manager Chris McAulay-Gilbart. The school features a large two-story learning commons with agora stair flex space, a gymnasium, open learning spaces and numerous green initiatives, including a Solar PV system on the roof and various components to meet LEED Silver certification.

The new school features a large two-story learning commons with agora stair flex space, a gymnasium, open learning spaces and numerous green initiatives, including a Solar PV system on the roof and various components to meet LEED Silver certification.



“The exterior of the building featured a large parking area, bus drop-off loop and future playground areas and all associated services,” added McAulay-Gilbart. “The building is clad with a unique mixture of fiber cement panels and stone composite panels imported from Norway.”

With construction beginning in the middle of a global pandemic, the team faced challenges with labour and material resources throughout the project.

“We implemented controls to ensure worker safety and minimize lost time due to illness while maintaining the schedule and avoiding delays in completion,” McAulay-Gilbart said. “Lead times for key mechanical equipment were significantly altered due to raw material availability, and Lear re-sequenced the exterior walls of the mechanical room to allow sufficient opening to install equipment at a later date while maintaining protection from the elements to allow other areas to progress unimpeded.”

Ultimately, the project was completed and turned over to the school division in accordance with the original schedule. ■

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Construction completed on Grande Prairie Composite High School, welcomes students and staff

By Kelsey James

At over 16,500 square metres and three storeys, the Grande Prairie Composite High School is the largest high school north of Edmonton.

With construction of the Grande Prairie Composite High School complete, the new school welcomed over 1,600 Grades 9 to 12 students for the 2022/2023 school year.

At over 16,500 square metres and three storeys, Grande Prairie Composite High School is the largest high school north of Edmonton and features a range of courses and programs, including international baccalaureate programming, career and technological studies, registered apprenticeship programs, senior trades, music, leadership, languages, fine arts and dual credit opportunities.

The Alberta government approved the Grande Prairie Composite High School replacement project, providing an investment of \$79 million.

“The team adapted to material delivery challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but still managed to deliver the new school project on time and within budget,” said Alberta Infrastructure’s learning facilities division project manager, Pankaj Batra. “The Grande

Prairie Composite High School replacement evolved through the collective efforts of all members of the project team.”

The new school offers spacious shops for senior trades, a theatre, state-of-the-art technology with touch-screen interactive displays in each classroom, an oversized gymnasium and features that enhance student accessibility, such as Braille on classroom signage. The building boasts a large three-storey central flex and gathering space which will function as the “heart of the school” and allows students and staff to flow into the remainder of the building.

“There is also a second-floor fitness centre overlooking the main gymnasium and a CTS wing for the construction, automotive and welding educational streams,” Batra added.

The school has an abundance of natural lighting and is equipped with solar panels designed to meet LEED Silver standard. The construction is non-combustible with a sprinkled fire suppression system.

Grande Prairie Composite High School principal Dennis Vobeyda said students, staff and the community celebrated the school's grand opening with an assembly featuring parents, government members, general contractors and architects from AMAN Builders Inc. and Workun Garrick Partnership Architecture and Interior Design Inc, as well as board members and division leaders.

The event was capped off with a giant countdown, cutting of the ceremonial ribbon and shooting of over 1000 confetti cannons.

The school's new logo, an image of a phoenix, was chosen through a two-year submission process where community members could make recommendations on the rebranding of the school. The logo features a phoenix rising from the name of the school, where it moves upwards to represent looking towards the future, Vobeyda explained. The two spanned wings on both sides of the phoenix represent strength and speed as it pulls up from behind the lettering. The phoenix ultimately symbolizes the school's rebirth and resurrection in a brand-new building.

"It's a fresh start for many things, but respecting tradition is essential," Vobeyda added. "That's one reason we retained orange, black and white; those are the original colours. We rebranded but kept some of the traditions we wanted to see going forward. We also held a public farewell event at the old school where the community could walk down memory lane and experience cafeteria food again." ■



The new school offers spacious shops for senior trades, a theatre, state-of-the-art technology with touch-screen interactive displays in each classroom, an oversized gymnasium and features that enhance student accessibility, such as Braille on classroom signage.

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New Joan Carr Catholic Elementary/ Junior High School welcomes Windermere- Keswick students to their new classrooms

By Kelsey James

The new Joan Carr Catholic Elementary/Junior High School in Edmonton's Windermere-Keswick neighbourhood is a two-storey building with a 928-student capacity and a gross floor area of 7,587 square metres.

The new Joan Carr Catholic Elementary/Junior High School in Edmonton's Windermere-Keswick neighbourhood is a two-storey building with a 928-student capacity and a gross floor area of 7,587 square metres. The Alberta government approved the new school project providing \$30 million in funding.

The school was designed to follow the 21st Century Learning (21CLE) principles, which includes critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. The school has bright open spaces and

areas where students can gather in their free time, including the main entrance, music and movement room, shared gymnasium and central administration offices.

"These areas are also purposefully designed so they can be used for learning purposes, where two or three classes can congregate and interact in collaborative way," said Alberta Infrastructure's capital projects delivery division and learning facilities branch project manager, Nikolas Crnčević.

"Additionally, there is a beautiful library area, common space with

feature stairs and a large sitting capability for students to interact."

ACI Architects Inc. was the bridging consultant for the new school, which is located along the west side of Keswick Drive SW, just south of Koshal Way SW.

"This is a relatively new and rapidly growing community. The new school was constructed to also become a neighbourhood school with amenities available to residents during off-peak hours," said Mumtaz Anwar, ACI Architects Inc. principal architect. "The

gymnasium, outdoor playing fields, future playground and parking are spaces to be used by the community after school hours.”

21CLE school design supports the belief that learning happens everywhere. One of the most important factors of the school's design was acknowledging and understanding the needs of the students and staff, including how they can “take ownership of a bright, efficient, flexible and interesting space,” Anwar said.

“21CLEs must look beyond the ‘cells and bells’ tradition of the one teacher/one classroom model and towards a more collaborative, flexible approach to teaching and learning,” Anwar added. “Learning environments for the 21st century strive to provide a variety of places of different scales and atmospheres where students feel comfortable, safe and welcome wherever they are.”

The scope of work and initial schematic design was developed by ACI Architects Inc. Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Education and ACI Architects Inc., who worked with the Edmonton Catholic school jurisdiction to come up with a design that best suited the school community's needs. The jurisdiction's motives for the project included safety and comfort, flexibility, movement, transparency, sustainability, inspiration, a connection to nature, shared ownership and a local signature, Anwar added.

In line with these goals, Joan Carr Catholic Elementary/Junior High School has an arrangement of classrooms directly rooted in 21CLE environment ideology. Rather than rows of classrooms opening



The scope of work and initial schematic design was developed by ACI Architects Inc. Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Education and ACI Architects Inc., who worked with the Edmonton Catholic school jurisdiction to come up with a design that best suited the school community's needs.

onto a shared hallway, classrooms are divided into clusters based on age and grade to create learning communities. Each learning community is arranged around a central common space, which acts as a shared area for presentations, art and science projects, or as a collaborative workspace for teachers, washrooms and a breakout room.

“The learning communities give the students a sense of identity, place and ownership within the school,” Anwar said. “Each of the learning communities has its own exterior entry and boot racks, as well as a connection to the interior school common, a shared space located at the heart of the school. It's full of natural light and with flexible seating, the school common provides a unique opportunity for teaching, learning and gathering amongst all students.”

Delnor Construction Ltd. with The Workun Garrick Partnership Architecture and Interior Design

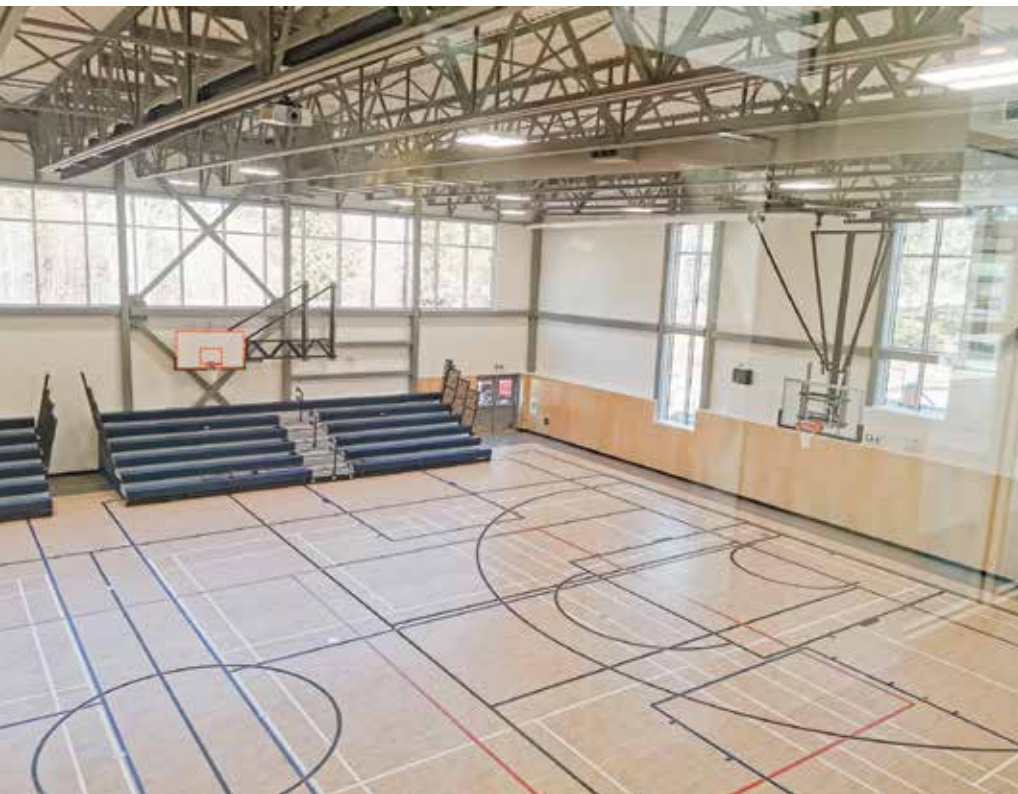
Inc. were contracted by the Alberta government to further develop the design, obtain the building permit and deliver the project. The major subtrades working with Delnor Construction were Onyx Mechanical and AltaPro, while Morrison Hershfield was commissioning agent hired by the government as a third-party independent consultant overlooking the facility start-up and commissioning process.

In line with the LEED certification plan for compliance with Canada Green Building Council, Delnor Construction applied for LEED v4 for building design and construction Silver certification for the facility. The certification process is still ongoing.

“The Windermere-Keswick community have a new modern bright school facility with the ability to utilize the park like setting playground area and large a gymnasium after hours,” Crnčević said. ■



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Unidentified hazards on your roof – are you at risk?

By Kevin Kramers



Many facility managers agree: the roof is an essential component of the building envelope and needs to perform properly to ensure the remainder of the building performs to its intended use. Unfortunately, once the roofing assembly is constructed, it is usually “out of sight and out of mind.” In addition to routine maintenance of your roof mounted mechanical equipment, ensuring proper drainage of the roof and biannual roof inspections, it is very important to understand other risks that may be on your roof.

With the multitude of membrane options available, each membrane surface can present their own unique hazards. It has been a longstanding practice in Alberta to install modified bituminous (SBS) membranes on public facilities, such as schools, as they offer improved puncture resistance and two plies of membrane protection. Another advantage of a modified bituminous membrane is the granulated surface, which aids in traction when walking on the roof. Depending on the type of work and work location, workers may require fall protection equipment when working on the roof, and it is important to ensure stable footing when working at heights.

Lately, there has been an increased interest in single ply membranes with school boards to reduce the insurance risk of open-flame roofing. These membranes perform to equivalent waterproofing standards as modified bituminous membranes, but it is crucial to educate anyone working on these roofs to understand and plan for a slippery surface when the surface is wet, frost or snow covered. There are options to reduce this risk by installing walkways either welded directly to the membrane or by using concrete pavers on extruded insulation. Planning these walkways to incorporate walking routes to regular maintenance areas and equipment will reduce the risk of slips.

Another trend being observed on roof areas is additional electrical and telecommunications equipment. Ballasted photovoltaic installations are installed on rack systems that may create tripping hazards while accessing different areas of the roof. These photovoltaic panels also incorporate a series of electrical raceways that need to be identified when completing a hazard assessment prior to working on the roof. Similarly, satellite dishes, signage, telecommunications and lightning protection also pose similar risks. These risks can be amplified when the roof is snow covered. Proper signage, walkways and understanding of additional equipment will provide those on the roof additional protection against these hazards.

It is important to note some telecommunications equipment emit electromagnetic fields that can be harmful if not properly signed and identified. These have been researched and addressed in the Government of Canada’s Safety Code 6. Proper training to detect and monitor safe working levels should be taken for anyone working in the vicinity of this type of equipment.

Regardless of the type of membrane, the equipment installed on your roof and existing weather conditions, awareness and planning to mitigate these risks will ensure everyone leaves the roof safely.

Kevin Kramers (C.E.T., R.R.O., C.T.R.) is the technical officer for the Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) and has over 30 years of construction experience in Alberta. He is responsible for maintaining the ARCA roofing application standards manual, managing the ARCA interdisciplinary technical committee, researching new products and applications and providing technical education for building professionals in Alberta. ■



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Why campus communication means more than alerts

We're living in a time in which posting updates and sharing news on social media instantly is the norm.

The immediate gratification of seeing simple messages that convey information that may impact views and actions can be applied to the needs of a school. Campus communication that can clearly, quickly and reliably share alerts and information is essential for the overall safety and sense of well-being that staff and students need. With nearly all schools implementing technology – whether on a large or small scale – they all need to know what can affect them.

Schools generally have some type of campus audio alert system that can include bells, intercom and paging capabilities. And while interactive displays have become the norm in the classroom so teachers can effectively engage with their students, those displays are usually siloed to only convey information within the classroom itself. A more complete campus communication system can take advantage of the audio support for paging and alerts and, at the same time, use the classroom

displays to convey important messaging school wide. Effective communication ensures important messages are heard and seen in a timely manner.

A complete campus communication solution includes:

- An audio system that can be integrated with other systems, as needed, for automated synchronization with bells and alarms,
- High-quality interactive displays so staff and students can view any message or update clearly from anywhere on campus,
- An alerting system that teachers can activate from their classrooms as needed, and
- IP-based control and management that allows administrators to schedule announcements and routine information, as well as share alerts and updates easily and quickly from a centralized location.

We are living in a time when technology has become the way to communicate. People from every walk of life and all ages are tuned in to current happenings and events with a simple tap to their

device screens. In the environment, digital displays are common in shopping centers, office lobbies, health clinic waiting rooms and more. When people know what's going on, they are less likely to feel anxious about what to expect next. It just makes sense, then, for districts and schools to implement campus communication systems to convey this same sense of ease and calm.

The Attention! campus communication solution from FrontRow by Boxlight combines the FrontRow Conductor™ campus-wide bells, paging, intercom and emergency communication platform with Boxlight's CleverLive cloud management platform and the Boxlight MimioPro 4 interactive displays for a fully integrated audio-visual messaging and alerting system. This comprehensive communication solution offers messaging capabilities that those on any campus are already accustomed to – short, simple and quick updates with images or video.

FrontRow's Conductor platform is a fully customizable system that allows administrators to control or communicate information campus-

wide. This can be done via zones, as pre-recorded messages and be scheduled to run when needed. To amplify clear sound quality in the classroom, the Action! teacher mic is optimized so that softer sounds (soft consonants, resounding vowel sounds) can clearly be heard from anywhere. The Action! mic has programmable buttons that can quickly alert the main office for an emergency event or situation that calls for a fast response.

CleverLive cloud content management platform is included as standard on the MimioPro 4 and turns a classroom tool into effective communication for school-wide messaging. With CleverLive, users can access, control and manage content from anywhere. In just a few steps, messages, updates and alerts can be broadcast to all displays. Attention! saves administrators time and energy, especially when information needs to be disseminated quickly and accurately. For example, in the case of an inclement weather

update, audio alerts will be triggered and administrators can broadcast premade messages to all displays. The likelihood that all on campus receives important information when needed is increased.

Ensuring that only authorized users can create, schedule and share messages and alerts helps decrease the likelihood of misinformation spreading and causing panic and stress. This is especially important when emergency alerts are broadcast. School communication is also a valuable means of making students feel welcome and part of a community in their school. When administrators can share weekly announcements, daily messages of affirmation or recognize achievements by students, teachers or classrooms, it brings a stronger sense of connection to the school.

The MimioPro 4 interactive displays are multi-purpose touchscreens that can be used in any space on a campus. Generally installed

in classrooms, these interactive displays help teachers create more dynamic learning experiences where students can actively engage and contribute to lessons and activities. For students with learning disabilities (visual, autism spectrum disorders, limited movement, etc.) having the ability to interact with a screen at the front of the class and even at their desks (via CleverShare screen mirroring software) helps to keep all students focused and motivated on learning. When students can access the instruction – sight, sound, touch – their retention and comprehension also improve. Extend the CleverLive messaging to high-traffic areas such as hallways, offices and entrances on existing displays or with Mimio Digital Signage solutions to ensure all on campus receives important information when needed.

Find out more about how you can create a truly engaging classroom that seamlessly integrates the school-wide communication needs by visiting www.boxlight.com. ■

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