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Bree-Dan Construction approaches 15th anniversary

By Colleen Swift

Bree-Dan Construction Ltd. will be celebrating 15 years in business this June; however, the company's origins go back 37 years. Owner Kevin Burton says he was just 18 when he started out as a general labourer pushing a broom.





ABOUT KEVIN BURTON

“I grew up in the country on a hobby farm about 10 miles north of Argyle, Manitoba. I went to Argyle School where there were only 3 teachers for 8 grades. There were 20 or so of us in one class-room, with different grades set up in different rows. Then from grade 9 until graduation we were bussed to Stonewall Collegiate. After graduating, I returned to my summer job working full time in a book bindery. After a year and a half, it was time to move on. I then started working in construction pushing a broom for a unionized company from Toronto, who was renovating clothing stores inside the Polo Park Mall, as the Mall received its massive second floor expansion. Within 2 weeks I was signed up with Apprenticeship Manitoba working as a first level carpenter apprentice. I already had some experience working with my father building our house and barns, so using saws and other hand tools was already familiar to me. Here I am today, about to celebrate 15 years running my own construction company.”



I had worked with a couple companies over the past few years where there was a lot of out-of-town projects, with no end in sight. It was one of those decisions you just have to make, either keep going out of town all the time, or change it up; I decided to change it up.

- Kevin Burton, Owner



Left to Right: Paul Summerton, Mike Amy, Brandan Burton, Tracey Burton, Matt Lischynski, Chase Summerton, Trevor Phelps, Emma Farmer, Bree Amy, Kevin Burton

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Bree-Dan regular Safety Meeting on site at the PBX project.

COMPANY HISTORY

After becoming a Journeyman Carpenter, then Site Superintendent and Project Manager, Burton worked for a few companies over the next 22 years before deciding to go into business for himself.

“I had worked with a couple companies over the past few years where there was a lot of out-of-town projects, with no end in site. It was one of those decisions you just have to make, either keep going out of town all the time, or change it up; I decided to change it up. I was confident with my con-

struction management experience after running so many projects for other large companies, that I decided there was no reason why I shouldn't start up my own company all while working on projects staying close to home. We came up with the name Bree-Dan Construction after several failed

attempts trying to register a company name utilizing my last name Burton, so we used a combination utilizing the forward part of my daughter's name (Breanne) and the back part of my son's name (Brandan). I started the business working out of an office in my home at first and soon had a few hard working and driven employees who helped lead our business to a successful start, which allowed us to move into a larger office space. Over time and several more completed projects, we were able to acquire more equipment, vehicles, and tools, eventually leading us to leasing a new larger office with shop and secured yard space. We have continued to expand over time taking over another adjacent tenant space adding more office and shop space for our operations.

STAFF

“Bree-Dan Construction Ltd. presently has 11 staff, consisting of Journeyman Carpenter Superintendents in the field, along with a Site Safety Officer. Our office staff consists of Estimators, Project Managers, and Administration.” Burton says his staff are very much like family to him adding several have been with Bree-Dan



Some Bree-Dan staff enjoying a relaxing afternoon off for a round of Golf at Bridges, attending the Curtis Carpets Annual tournament.

Construction for many years now. This of course includes his son who is now a Superintendent in the company and his daughter who is the Manager of Accounting. “Having the right staff in place ensures our business maintains a great overall company culture and provides the road to steady growth.”

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PBX Truck Service Office/Warehouse and Truck/Trailer Repair Shop Additions - Design-Build Project, Blumenort, MB. Getting close to finishing.



PBX Truck Service - mid-construction, early fall season.



PBX - New Office Addition.



PBX - Truck & Trailer Shop Addition.

PROJECTS

Bree-Dan's scope of work includes institutional, commercial, and industrial projects. "Many of the projects I have worked on during my career have been in the trucking industry."

Burton says, "While I've personally experienced a couple of decades working with the trucking industry, Bree-Dan Construction has also constructed several projects in the Trucking Industry over the past 14+ years for clients such as Paul's Hauling Ltd, Westcan Bulk Transport, Gardewine, Renaissance Transport, Ocean Trailers, Manitoba Trucking Association, Peterbilt, and most recently PBX Truck Service."



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New 7500s.f. Hangar Building for a repeat client in Brandon, MB. Built with heated floors and large enough to store several planes and equipment through the 65’ wide by 18’ high automatic door.



Hangar Building located within the Brandon Municipal Airport property. Beautiful summer day for ongoing construction.

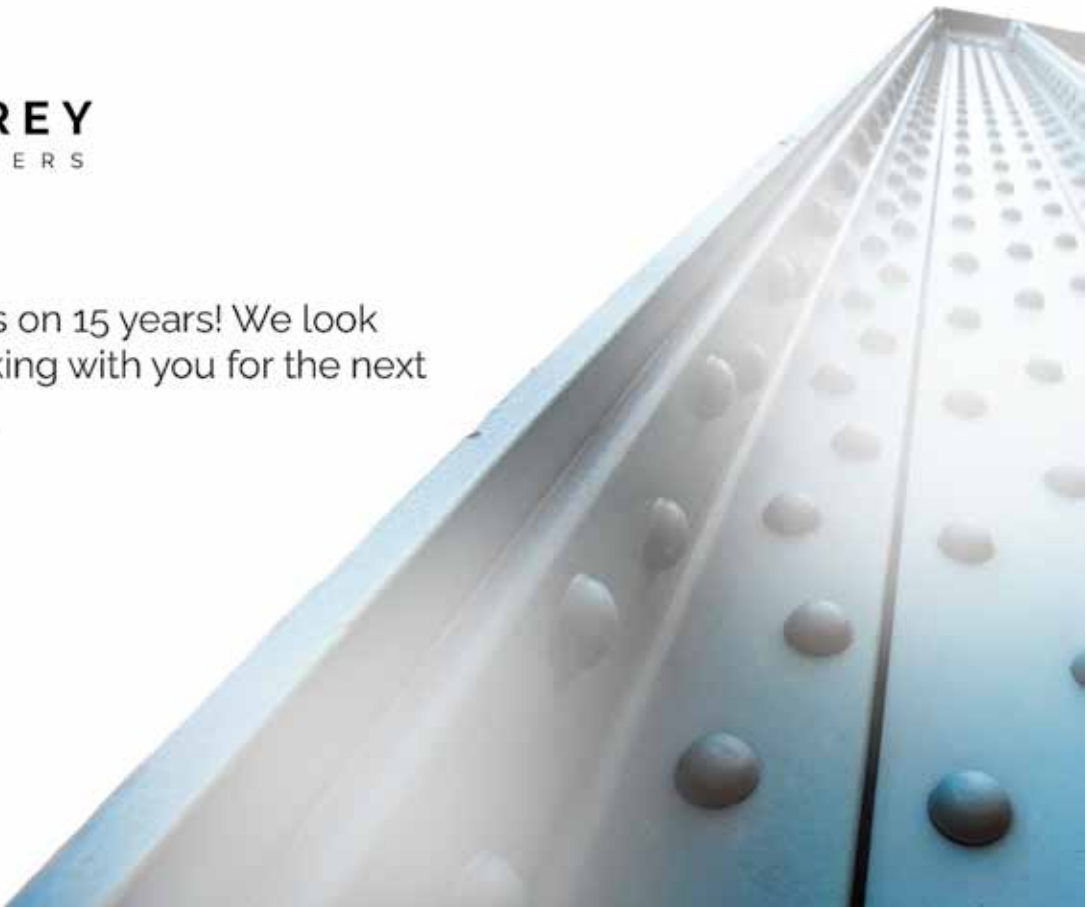
“We very recently completed a project for PBX Truck Service in Blumenort, MB. We were recommended to PBX by another client due to projects we completed in Winnipeg. We presented our portfolio along with our own project ideas, which I’m happy to say were accepted. We designed it, built it, and ended with handing them the keys. This project was a design-build consisting

of a 13,370s.f. addition for a new 2-story Office space along with a Parts Warehouse area, and another 15,200s.f. addition for 7 new Service & Repair Bays for trucks, trailers, and equipment. The office area was designed with an atrium area between the main and second floors allowing lots of natural lighting through the two-story glazed storefront. This also enabled people

to communicate with each other from different levels of the building throughout the showroom and second floor areas. We were honoured and proud to have completed this project alongside PBX Group and look forward to our next project together which we are happy to say is already in its design phase with our consulting team.”

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LAWYERS

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Other Feature Projects by Bree-Dan Construction over the years include:

- **University of Manitoba** – Over (60) Renovation Projects completed.
- **Manitoba Trucking Association** – Addition and Renovations Project
- **Renaissance Transport Ltd.** – New Office Building - Design Build Project
- **G. Brown 7500s.f. Aircraft Hangar** – Design-Build Project
- **Great Canadian Travel Company** – Convert Shop/ Warehouse to New Offices
- **Pan-Am Rehabilitation Services** – Clinic Renovations
- **Peterbilt** - Washroom Renovations, Office Renovations, Wah-Bay Renovation
- **QuadReal Property Management** – Multiple Renovations
- **City of Winnipeg** – Weston Memorial CC Interior Renovations, Interior Renovations to (4) Fire Stations, Northwood CC Renovations, Fort Rouge Leisure Centre Renovations
- **Defence Construction Canada** – Multiple Renovation Projects
- **Manitoba Centennial Centre** – Interior Renovations
- **Lord Selkirk School Division** - Science Labs/ Classroom Renovations
- **Winnipeg School Division #1**, Clinical Services Office Renovations, Prince Charles School Reno's, Luxton School Elevator Addition & Interior Renovations, Niji Mahkwa School Reno's, Earl Grey School Reno's
- **Louis Riel School Division** – College Beliveau Science Lab Reno's and Victor Mager School Structural Upgrades & New Roofing
- **Reh-Fit Centre** – New Fieldhouse Lighting, New Mezz Washrooms, Testing Lab Renovations
- **PHL Project** – Multiple Renovations and Additions (Winnipeg and Brandon)
- **Westcan Bulk Transport** – Multiple Projects - Calgary Office Renovations, Edmonton Office Renovations, Moosejaw Shop Renovations, and more.
- **Gardewine** – Multiple Projects – Several Winnipeg Office & Terminal Renovations, Dauphin Terminal, Thompson Terminal, Regina Terminal, and more.
- **Park Manor Personal Care Home** – Window Replacement Project
- **Harstone House** – 3800s.f. Rebuild Project
- **MB Housing** – Selkirk Daycare, Edgeland Daycare, & Stadacona Daycare
- **Winnipeg Prosthetics & Orthotics** – Multiple Office Renovation Projects.



New Human Bean Coffee & Tea, Specialty Shop in Cityplace Mall.



New Office Building for Renaissance Transport Ltd, Brandon, MB. Design-Build Project.

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New Addition and Renovations Project completed for Manitoba Trucking Association at 25 Bunting Street, Winnipeg.

SAFETY STANDARDS

Bree-Dan Construction is a COR certified company which comes with a rigorous regime to uphold a comprehensive health and safety program. The Certificate of Recognition (COR®) Program is the ultimate accreditation to verify companies that have implemented a comprehensive health and safety program through the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM)

“We are a COR certified company,” says Burton. – “We started our certification program in 2011. The program takes a full year of implementing, training, and documenting all aspects of the safety program, then

you go through the audit process to become certified. There is a lot to learn as well as a lot of work and expense involved, but we became fully COR Certified in 2012. Today most of our clients require their project GC’s to be a COR Certified company. I don’t think there is anything better than COR certification; it has impacted all of us in a positive way including the way we do things at home. Everything has become safer and made us more safety conscious.”

PANDEMIC EFFECTS

Bree-Dan like many other businesses has felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Burton says, “We noticed a lot of differences since covid hit, as a lot of projects were put on hold at first. Most projects that were already in the works went forward but some new construction projects which were ready for proposals were put on-hold. We saw the numbers of permits rise for residential projects while commercial project permits went down. We ended up bidding on what was available like government funded projects for schools, rather than privately funded projects. Due to the commercial slow down there were more companies now competing for the same publicly tendered projects. We were initially worried about the construction industry being temporarily shut down like some other businesses due to this pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to secure a couple of projects relating to healthcare as well as another in the transportation industry, which we understood would not be shut down because they were both considered essential services, and transportation is one industry which helps keep the economy running.”

“We started designs on the PBX Project in 2019 and began breaking ground in April 2020 just after the pandemic shut-downs started. It could have been derailed and put on hold like other projects, but given it was



Gardewine, Thompson. New Office Addition, New Cross-Dock Addition, New Truck Storage and Wash-Bay Building, and Renovations to Warehouse Building.

related to the Transportation Industry we had to believe we would not be shut down. PBX Truck Service completes repairs, sells truck parts, and services these trucks which help to keep the Goods moving down the roads. We had several meetings to discuss whether the project should start in April as scheduled, and fortunately it was agreed to move forward. Good thing they did because the project material costs were normal at that time, but as we all know began to significantly increase soon after. There were however many delays such as waiting for our consultants and engineers as they worked to set up their remote offices in their homes, and of course the many materials and equipment delivery delays as we have all experienced. We ended up a few weeks behind on account of these delays, which also pushed the project to go into the winter months while we were still preparing to close in the structures, causing added expenses to provide heating and hoarding to our project.”

“We kept track of all of our staff to monitor no one was ill, as well as kept a daily tracking logbook on each project identifying where all workers were each day and who they had been in contact with on site in case anyone had become sick. At first the covid testing was taking a lot longer than it

does today, and the workers who showed symptoms and received testing had to isolate at home, which also cause some manpower delays. But these things are out of our control, and although it does influence each project, we have to make the adjustments needed to keep moving forward and just hope it is over sooner than later.”

CORE VALUES

Burton’s values for his company are simple: “We strive to achieve the quality and satisfaction our clients expect while building a solid relationship of trust and transparency. It’s what keeps clients coming

back, as well as recommending our business to others. We believe a strong relationship with our clients is pivotal in the groundwork for success on any project. Our accomplishments also come from working with an exceptional dedicated team of construction experts and professionals, and a network of the finest Consultants and Subcontractors. One of the key elements is our ability to provide quality workmanship while ensuring projects are completed on time and on budget – exceeding clients’ expectations. No job is too big or small, as we treat each project with the same meticulous attention to detail.”



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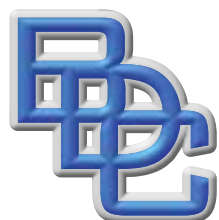
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Our belief is to build a strong foundation with our clients as this is pivotal in the groundwork for success on any project. In keeping with this desire, we're not satisfied until you are.

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