Notes From The Director

Early in my career I had the good fortune of working as quality control manager for concrete production during construction of a nuclear power plant in Northeast Ohio. The nature of this type of construction during the 70’s and 80’s required strict adherence to a well defined set of quality standards that included organizational structure, control of materials and processes, record keeping, nonconformance, corrective action, and audits. This experience taught me a great deal about construction quality, particularly in the area of concrete.

What seemed thirty some years ago as a level of control that was only necessary for critical facilities such as nuclear plants, is now commonplace within the precast/prestressed industry as more and more producers are working under plant certification programs. These programs, developed and administered by industry associations, apply essentially the same set of strict criteria that ensured the safety of our nuclear power plants.

The logos below are proudly displayed by participating precast producers as symbols of their dedication and commitment to supplying concrete products meeting the highest quality standards in the industry. PCANY is also proud to have many of these certified plants among its members.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Niagara Falls CSD Says “Play Ball” With Quality Precast Concrete Dugouts

Niagara Falls High School, as part of a $67 million capital improvements project, will soon have the largest high school artificial turf sports complex in New York State. Why is this significant to precast? It speaks to the overall strategy of the project, which focused on long term durability, low maintenance, and lower life cycle cost. This is also why precast concrete dugouts were chosen over conventional block or wood construction. The home team dugout is 8’ x 46’ x 8’ high and includes an 8’ x 10’ storage room. The visitor’s dugout is 8’ x 35’ x 8’ high. Precast wall panels and roof slabs for both structures were delivered and erected on a cast-in-place floor slab in one day, thus helping to keep the aggressive construction schedule on track. The wall panels arrived pre-stained with the school colors of royal blue and yellow creating additional time savings.

Project Credits:

- Owner: Niagara Falls Central School District
- Engineer: Cannon Design Engineers & Architects, Grand Island, NY
- Contractor: Anastasi Trucking & Paving, Lancaster, NY
- Precast Producer: Lakelands Concrete Products, Lima, NY

Our thanks to Gina Lathan of Lakelands Concrete Products for submitting photos and information about this project. PCANY is proud to feature projects and products that highlight the benefits of precast and we always welcome submissions from precasters, engineers, contractors, associate members and academia. Please feel free to send any items of interest to pcany@aol.com

Precast concrete is ideally suited for any number of sports complex applications such as bleachers, dugouts, concession stands, equipment rooms, announcing booths, stairs, ramps, vomitories, light pole foundations, and underground utilities to name a few. Contact PCANY or one of our member companies for help on your next project.
Embassy Suites Hotel Constructed with Precast Hollow-Core and Girder-Slab Beams

Scheduled to open this fall, Saratoga Springs will be the home of a new full service all-suites hotel with 149 rooms and 5000 square feet of meeting rooms and an on-site restaurant. Construction of this facility was on a fast-track schedule that was made possible by the effective use of precast elements. From an award date of September 6, 2013 to the completion of erection on April 14, 2014, Oldcastle Building Systems supplied nearly 146,000 square feet of Elematic plank units, 41 stair units, and 41 landings. Hollow-core planks and Girder-Slab D-Beams were combined to create a shallow and economical building profile.

Erection of the six story building remained on schedule despite one of the harshest winters on record for upstate New York.

A Precast Power Play for New RIT Hockey Stadium

The Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers will skate into the 2014 season at the brand new Gene Polisseni Center, a 4300 seat hockey arena with a construction cost estimated at $35-37 million. The bleachers were constructed from 325 precast-prestressed single risers (25 1/2” x 38” tread) spanning up to 36’-10” between steel raker beams. 24 of these elements were modified and filled in for handicap and VIP suite areas. Precast was the material of choice for its durability, quality, and lower life cycle cost.

Project Credits:

- **Owner:** Rochester Institute of Technology
- **Architect:** BBB Architects, Toronto, ON
- **Structural Engineer:** Entuitive Corp, Toronto, ON
- **General Contractor:** LeChase Construction, Rochester, NY
- **Precast Producer:** Oldcastle Building Systems, Selkirk, NY

Thanks to David Wan, P.E. of Oldcastle Building Systems for submitting both of these projects.
Passero Associates adds to Staff in Albany & Rochester Offices

Passero Associates of Rochester recently announced the following new hires:

Bruce Clark, PE—Aviation Services Senior Project Manager
Tim Harris, EIT - Project Engineer, Civil Engineering Department
Matt Newcomb—Project Engineer, Civil Engineering Department
Tim Geier—Intern Architect

Passero Associates provides planning, engineering, architectural design, sustainability, surveying, program management, and construction administration services. The firm was founded in 1972 and has a staff of over 90 professionals. www.passero.com

Lakelands Concrete Products Hires Sales Manager

Gina Lathan has returned to Lakelands Concrete Products of Lima, NY as Sales Manager. Gina has over 20 years of experience in precast sales and engineering and can be reached at glathan@lakelandsconcrete.com.

NPCA Convention Registration Now Open

The NPCA 49th Annual Convention is scheduled for October 22-25 at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal. Complete information and on-line registration can be found at www.precast.org/convention. Don’t forget your passport if you are traveling to Canada.