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\$305 million plug on three GTA
university campus expansions**

**Hamilton, neighbouring communities
and public agencies switch from
Biddingo to eSolutions Group for
bids and tenders**

**New \$15 million
Niagara College
Welland Campus
student commons
reflects collaboration
and cohesion**

Provincial government pulls \$305 million plug on three GTA university campus expansions

The GTA Construction Report staff writer

The Progressive Conservative government has revoked funding for three GTA university campus extensions, including a \$127.3 million commitment for a York University/Seneca College project in Markham that was set to begin construction by the end of the year.

The other two campuses cancelled include a partnership between Wilfred Laurier University and Conestoga College in Milton and one in Brampton with Ryerson University and Sheridan College.

The latter two projects were to receive \$90 million each, bringing the overall funding cancellation to \$305 million.

"We promised the people of Ontario to restore accountability and trust in Ontario's finances," training, colleges and universities minister Merilee Fullerton said in a statement. "Part of that process means making tough decisions about projects across Ontario."

Markham and York Region offi-



cials indicated they hope to find a way to continue the campus project, with an original \$253 million budget. The City of Markham had agreed to contribute land, with York Region investing a further \$25 million.

"York University is raising critical funds for this important facility," York Region chair and CEO Wayne Emmerson said in a statement.

The Globe and Mail quoted a spokeswoman for Fullerton as saying that the ministry is working with the institutions to understand what has been completed "and if there are termination or reasonable wind-down costs."

"Our government would be willing to consider a business case for how these projects may proceed in the absence of provincial capital funding," Stephanie Rae said.

In a joint statement, Seneca president David Agnew and Rhonda Lenton, York University's president and vice-chancellor, said the provincial government informed them of its "unexpected decision" late on Oct. 23.

They said that the campus project is "already well under way," with the design and development-planning phase completed. "The procurement process to secure a construction firm is nearing completion and construction was set to begin later this fall," they wrote.

"We are committed to working with all involved to determine if there is a path forward that will still meet the post-secondary needs of York Region and its residents," they wrote.

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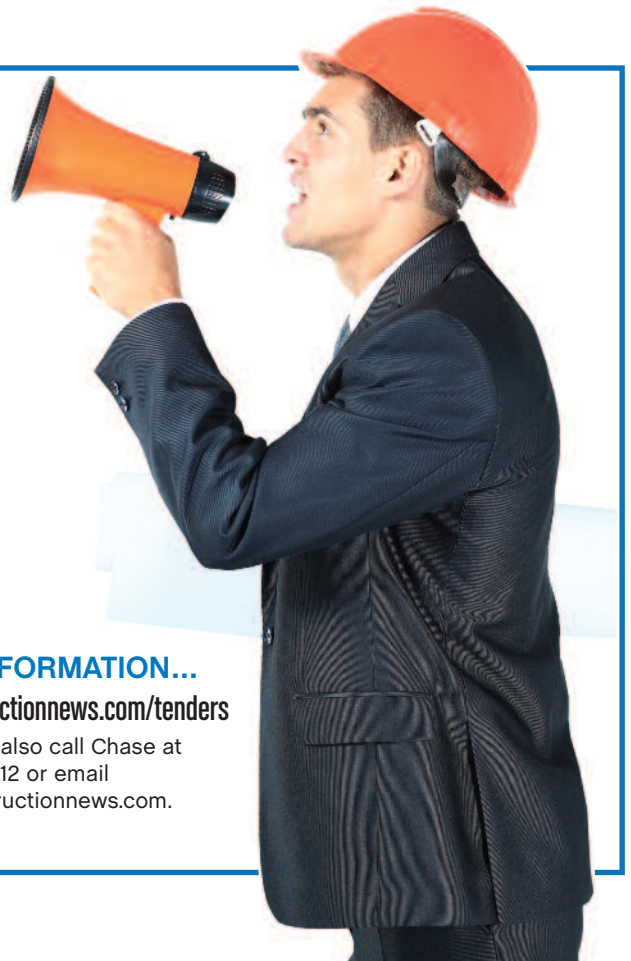
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Editor's column

Mark Buckshon
President, Construction News
and Report Group of Companies



I'll be on the road (and in the air) a fair bit more than usual in the next month. There are trips to the West Coast (for an annual Google summit and to visit family in Vancouver) and to Toronto for the Buildings Show Nov. 28 to 30. Between these two travel experiences, my wife and I are heading to New York and then to Singapore, experiencing the longest flight in the world - an 18.5 to 19 hour non-stop taking us almost literally half-way around the world. (With the 12-hour time difference and the fact that New York is a bit more north of the Equator from Singapore, the shortest route is over the North Pole.)

Besides travel endurance bragging rights and some useful (and exotic) experiences, can we learn anything about effective construction business management and marketing?

To answer the question, consider the communications issue. Or more accurately, the non-issue. With an exception of a few hours over the polar regions, the extremely long Singapore Airlines flight provides Wi-Fi interconnect connectivity. It isn't super cheap or fast, but email will get through. There's no problem at Google headquarters in California, of course - we're expected to have our laptops on and tuned in even as we conduct our business.

The Buildings Show is a different experience. When I'm on the show exhibit floor, I'll be without any Internet connectivity, because the Metro Toronto Convention Centre uses its monopoly to charge extremely high internet access fees. This isn't a total problem, because all you need to do is to take the escalator one floor up and you are back in touch with the world.

The second point relates to business management and delegation. Our business isn't very large and I do many jobs that can be delegated. And fortunately, I have the ability to enhance/increase the delegation level so that most of the routine workload will be taken off my plate during the travels.

The final point relates to cost. These trips aren't free but they aren't budget breakers. Google pays my costs to fly to California and Vancouver in economy class, and I'm staying with family in Vancouver. An \$80 points ticket allows me to fly home in business class - and I splurged on a paid upgrade for the California flight; after all the trip is almost free otherwise.

With Singapore Airlines, premium economy seats are less than \$1,200 return, and we've found highly-rated hotels at truly reasonable rates. We'll stay at AirB&B places in Toronto, keeping our costs down there, as well.

I think the main costs for this travel will be time and location stress. However, the travel will likely induce some profitable and creative ideas.

You can reach Mark Buckshon by email at buckshon@constructionmarketingideas.com. He publishes a regular blog at www.constructionmarketingideas.com.

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Associate Publisher's viewpoint

By Chase
Associate Publisher,
GTA Construction Report



It is hard to believe that 2018 is almost over. Time is one thing I wish we were able to save up for a rainy day or just to slow things down.

With November approaching as I write the column, I shudder to think of how busy we will be the next two months. To start, we must prepare for The Buildings Show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from Nov. 28 to 30. Our next company call will be a review of the final touches to get ready. The show allows me to meet with many past and current clients, reconnecting in person instead of through the standard email and phone calls that have replaced normal business interactions.

December for me is a short month to prepare materials and receive advertisers' artwork before Christmas. It never fails that one or two advertisers miss the deadline and promise to deliver materials be-

tween Christmas and the New Year, so the question will be: Do we wait an extra week to go to press or not?

The good thing about December is I have the chance to unplug from work for almost a whole week to be ready to hit the ground running in January. My busy season is during the months when the construction industry slows down due to the weather. More people have time to respond to calls or emails during the November to March period, planning for the year's first six months.

What are your holiday season plans? What do you have planned with your family? What work events and parties are in the works? Share how you may be volunteering your time or industry events/parties you will be hosting or attending, and I can provide coverage in the next issue. Just send me an email at chase@gtaconstructionreport.com.

Chase is the director of marketing and client relations for the Construction News and Report Group as well as the associate publisher for the GTA Construction Report, Ontario Construction Report and the Canadian Design & Construction Report, as well as several US magazines. These publications reach tens of thousands of readers across Canada and the United States. You can reach him at (905) 341-8686 or visit www.gtaconstructionreport.com.

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Hamilton, neighbouring communities and public agencies switch from Biddingo to eSolutions Group for bids and tenders

GTA Construction Report staff writer

The City of Hamilton and several other public agencies in the Hamilton and Halton region have switched their procurement engine from Biddingo to the Bids&Tenders system provided by eSolutions-Group Inc.

The change for Hamilton took place on Oct. 1.

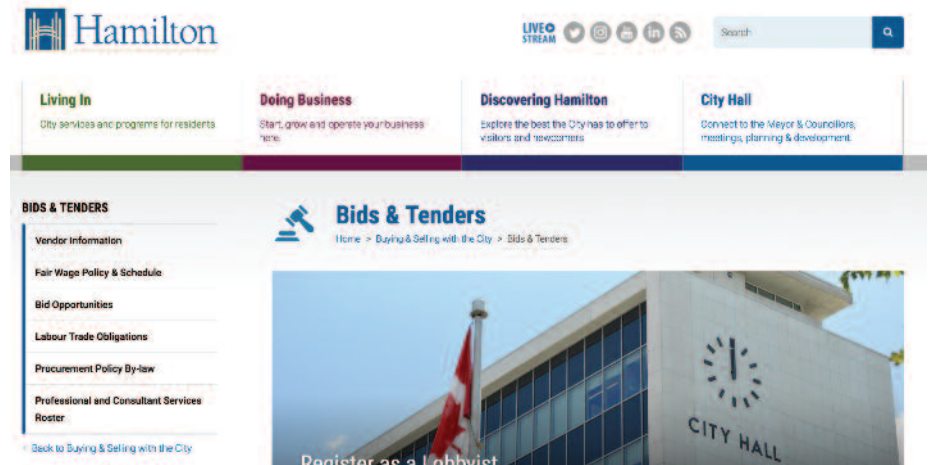
City council approved the change in mid-2017 after reviewing options and evaluating five competing responses to a Request for Proposals from the city and surrounding communities.

The eSolutionsGroup proposal won the competition because of its features and lower costs, both to the public agencies and surrounding agencies, as well as prospective bidders.

All of the competing systems require bidders to cover the costs of submitting their bids, but the Bids&Tenders system proved to be the least expensive, and in fact, according to city staff, was less costly than Biddingo.com. Bidders can either sign up for an annual service at \$165 per year (where they can access all available options from different purchasers) or pay a \$45 one-time fee.

Biddingo.com charged \$250 per year. City staff determined that 84 per cent of vendors using Biddingo.com were also registered with eSolutions, meaning they would have no trouble migrating to the new system (and might save additional money as a result).

The city also saves money on the back-end, because of its built in contract management system, saving an estimated \$9,605 in hard costs. "With the efficiency of this system and as staff learn to use the system to its fullest, staff also expect to achieve some time savings in reporting in the maintenance of



contracts," said the memo written by Rick Male, Hamilton's director, financial services, taxation, and the city's corporate controller.

The system also includes resources to manage the city's Vendor Performance Management (VPM) processes, allowing procurement staff "to set up an automated process to capture the required vendor performance evaluation forms, as well as any vendor performance incident forms issued through the term of the contract," Male wrote.

The 10 agencies participating in the new system include the City of Burlington, the Town of Oakville, the Regional Municipality of Halton, the Town of Halton Hills, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton Catholic District School Board and Sheridan College.

Hamilton's procurement opportunities are listed at <https://www.hamilton.ca/buying-selling-city/bids-tenders>.

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General Motors plans 7 acre downtown Toronto complex



General Motors is preparing to build a seven-acre complex in downtown Toronto.

The development, called the Toronto GM Mobility Campus, will combine research and development facilities with vehicle sales.

With frontage along Lakeshore Blvd. East, the south half of the seven-acre property will house a 160,000-sq.-ft. building comprised of a lower level podium that will rise to five storeys, with three wings offering panoramic views of Lake Ontario and downtown Toronto.

The complex will include offices, R&D facilities for urban mobility, GM vehicle sales and service area, and a public experience area showcasing innovations in mobility, including electric and autonomous vehicles, e-bikes and car-sharing.

According to CBC, demolition at

the site will begin later this month, with construction expected to take two years.

The project is designed by Quadrangle Architects.

Province, developer reach air rights deal for \$102 million Mimico GO Station redevelopment

The provincial government has reached an agreement with a private developer to rebuild the Mimico GO Station in Etobicoke in exchange for development rights above the station.

Developer Vandyk will refurbish and enhance the existing site, building a mixed-use project.

The government news release did not specify the expected development value or other details about what will be built on the site. However, CBC news reports the project has an estimated \$102 million value.

The station will include a new station building, pedestrian tunnels and elevators, refurbished platforms and new entrances to the station and below grade parking. In exchange for development rights,



Vandyk will pay for all construction costs for the main station building, new parking and Greenway at the station.

"We are very excited about the opportunity at Mimico GO Station," Phil Verster said in a statement. "Bringing a new station into a community at little or no cost to the taxpayer is something that has great potential. It also makes good business sense. Metrolinx continues to be open to innovative, joint approaches with the private sector that reduce the cost to taxpayers and also provide efficient, safe and affordable transportation options."

Ontario's NDP asked for greater transparency and for affordable housing to be included in the development.



"Any deal regarding this site, which has been the source of scandal in the past, must be absolutely transparent. Furthermore, such a deal must include affordable housing, which is sorely needed in this community," said NDP transit critic Jessica Bell.

The scandal Bell referred to was an earlier deal with another developer to construct a 242-unit condo building with direct access to the GO Station. Metrolinx backed out of the deal in 2012, and in 2017, the development was placed into court-ordered readership, after trade contractors filed liens on the project, which stalled when it was about 15 per cent completed. About 200 condo buyers were to receive deposit refunds.



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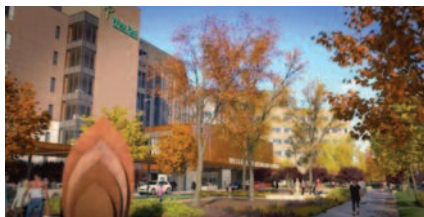
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EllisDon building \$1.2 billion hospital overlooking Humber River Valley

West Park Healthcare Centre has broken ground on a massive new hospital construction project in Toronto.

The \$1.2-billion project will include a new six-storey hospital overlooking the Humber River Valley. The hospital, scheduled to open in 2023, will feature 80 per cent of the beds in single-patient rooms, with each inpatient having a private three-piece washroom for improved infection control. The campus will be built on 27 acres.

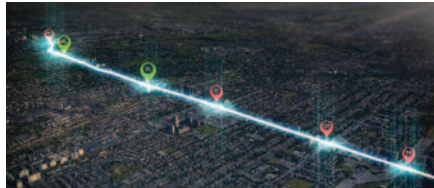


West Park Foundation has launched the \$80-million *Get Your Life Back Campaign* to raise funds for the new hospital. Phase 1 of the campaign will raise \$50 million by 2023, with the foundation providing an additional \$30 million in support to the new hospital over the next 30 years.

EllisDon Infrastructure Healthcare has been awarded a fixed-price contract to design, build, finance and maintain the new hospital.

WW+P designing two Yonge Subway Extension stations

Weston Williamson + Partners says that it will design two of the five new metro stations on the Yonge Subway Extension (YSE) in Toronto and York Region.



Yonge St. is the economic and cultural spine of Toronto and York Region and the Line 1-Yonge University subway is the busiest rapid transit line in Canada. The YSE will stretch from Finch Station in Toronto north to Richmond Hill, a

total of 7.4 kilometres.

Both of the WW+P stations, at Clark and Langstaff, will be tunnel/bore construction with box stations. There will be intermodal interchanges at each and at Langstaff there will be parking provision for 2,000 cars.

"We are excited to be contributing two stations and their associated urban realm to this fantastic project. By improving connectivity across the Greater Toronto Area, the extension will also unlock thousands of new homes and jobs in the area," senior partner and architecture project director Christian Bocci said in a prepared statement.

The YSE is expected to carry 165,000 passengers per day on the latest Toronto Rocket six-car trains.

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New \$15 million Niagara College Welland Campus student commons reflects collaboration and cohesion



PHOTO BY NOAH CHASE

GTA Construction Report special feature

The new \$15 million Niagara College Welland Campus student commons is a model of efficiency and success, providing cohesion for a campus that has evolved slowly over time.

The project, a two-storey addition and renovation to the college's Simcoe building, includes more than 33,000 sq. ft. of newly built space and 600 sq. ft. of renovations.

Gow Hastings Architects designed the project, with GS Wark overseeing construction and UEM Consulting serving as project manager.

The new space includes six food vendors, seating for 450 people, and student collaborative and study areas.

College students were welcomed to the new Student Commons with a cake and coffee giveaway, and an inside look at the new facility, which also includes an innovative video wall and a small green-roof. A unique 1,300 sq. ft. student activity room includes glass pivot doors, and a standalone sound and projection system.

GS Wark vice-president John Morrone says his general contracting team had responsibility for the project's management, procurement and organization.

Among the challenges: Maintaining full functionality of the college for staff and students while work was ongoing.

Part of this challenge, according to Gow Hastings' designer Hugo Martins, was that the addition con-

nects three buildings built over a span of 50 years.

"There have been many iterations of evolution of the Welland Campus and while there has been a concerted effort to connect separate buildings via internal corridors, the space appeared incremental in nature, disjointed with a lack of clear circulation wayfinding and access to important services," he said. "The new space seamlessly connects to the existing corridor system of the college to make this a true hub of activity."

The student commons includes a new centrally located social hub in the heart of campus; with study areas, places to relax, prayer rooms and other support services. "There is a food court and cafeteria with direct links to nearby student ser-



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vices, the library commons, coffee stops, the Welland Campus store and the transit loop," says Martins.

The newly constructed façade establishes a "landmark architecture to enhance the entrance to the college to establish a new front door to the revitalized campus," says Martins.

Morrone says expansion focused on student needs and comfort as well as functionality. "The seating is spacious and abundant and, rather than a typical table seating arrangement, has more of a comfortable lounge feel."

Finishing specialties including perforated aluminum panels, cedar slat walls, felt accents, and an ex-



tensive use of Corian for furniture and wall finishes to create a distinct, and warm feel.

"There is also a green roof that has been installed over the kitchen and additional trees have been planted outside to create a really welcoming and inviting space," he says.

Designed to shadow LEED requirements, the two-storey glazing and the clerestory provides a substantial amount of natural light. Martins says light fixtures are supported by a daylight harvesting system with photocell control.

"Another feature is variable speed air handling units and ceiling fans which will reduce the demand on the HVAC system," he said.

Both firms had experience on previous Niagara College projects. They worked as a team with a collaborative planning approach from initial design through construction, the architect and contractor said.



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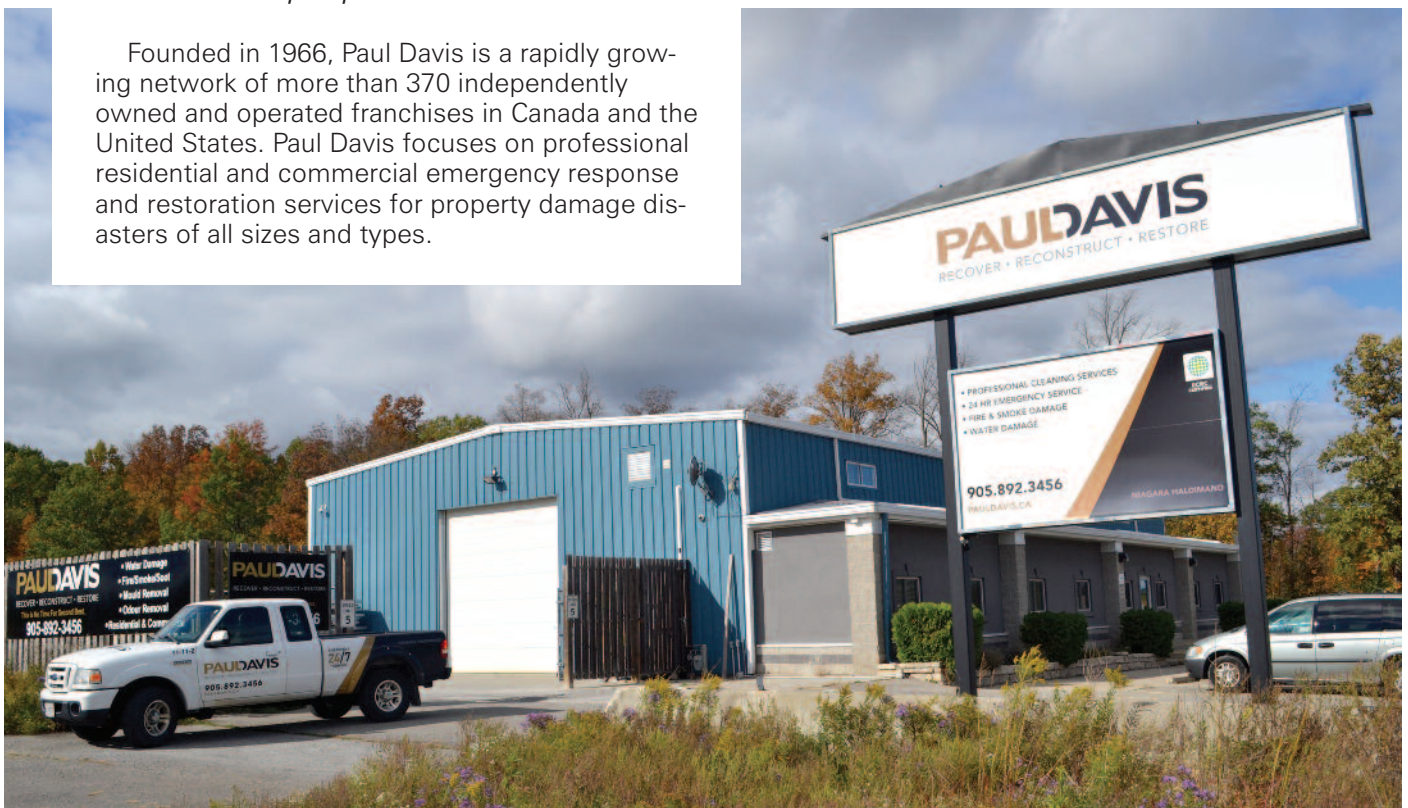
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GTA Construction Report special feature

Founded in 1966, Paul Davis is a rapidly growing network of more than 370 independently owned and operated franchises in Canada and the United States. Paul Davis focuses on professional residential and commercial emergency response and restoration services for property damage disasters of all sizes and types.





Paul Davis Niagara/Haldimand has been in operation for more than a decade and is a flourishing part of the community. Reinhold "Red" Klassen and Suzanne Klassen took ownership in January of 2018. They identified in the company similar goals and values and a strong foundation that would support their community and their family, and the ability to build a business that they would be proud to pass down to a second generation.

When speaking to Red about his decision to purchase the franchise, he says they recognized the company's high level of sophistication in training and operations. He thought it was a good opportunity to support and expand the capabilities of their long-standing professional experience in construction, the trades, and business and financial management, while helping the community during property damage emergencies.

Red says: "Being part of such a great organization makes my job that much more enjoyable, knowing that at any time you can reach out to over 300 franchises to find answers, look for best practices and to ensure we are giving the best service to provide extraordinary care while serving people in their time of need."

Paul Davis Niagara/Haldimand specializes in rapid emergency services such as board-ups, water and storm damage mitigation, fire and smoke damage mitigation, mould remediation and many others. The team also provides restoration work from damage due to crime and trauma scenes, vandalism, biohazard remediation, wind and storm damage, contents cleaning, repairs, reconstruction and renovations.

"We also offer electronics cleaning, in house laundry, the Fire-Line system (for faster and more specialized contents cleaning), on-site storage, and a drying room for water damaged items," says Red Klassen.

"We are an innovative company that stresses the importance of ASD (applied structural drying). We will use this type of drying process whenever possible as it saves time during mitigation, saves materials from going to landfill and minimizes the restoration required on a property. All of this saves money, down time and



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gets the business and or homeowner back up and running in a much faster timeframe.”

The 19 person Paul Davis Niagara/Haldimand team has experience in all types of property damage scenarios such as flood and sewer back-up, from smaller property damage incidents to large commercial projects.

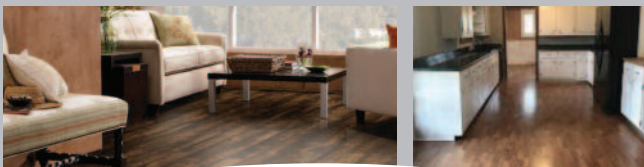
The staff of full-time restoration professionals hold certifications from the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) in Water Damage (WRT), Applied Structural Drying (ASD), Fire Mitigation (FRST), Applied Microbial Remediation Tech (AMRT),



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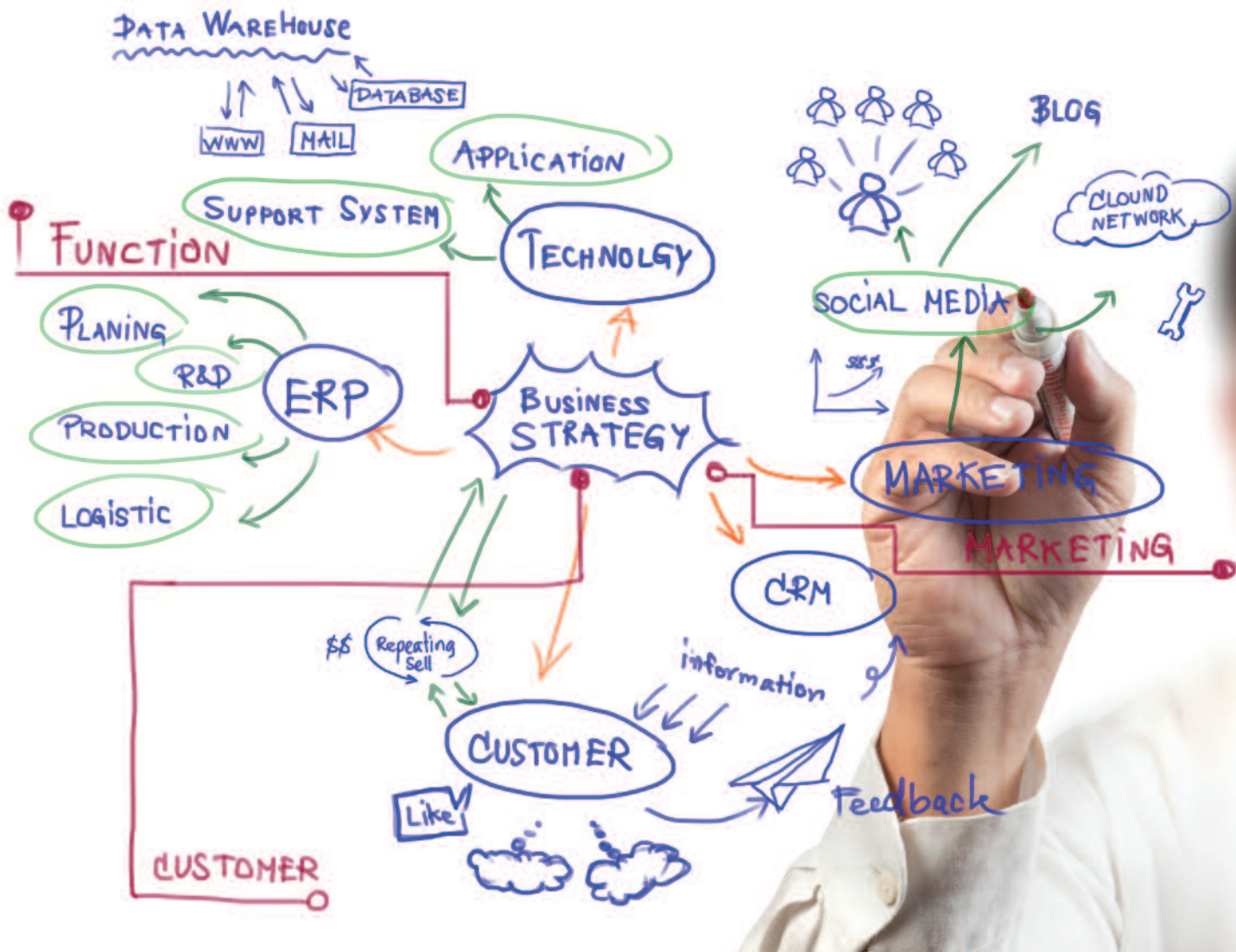
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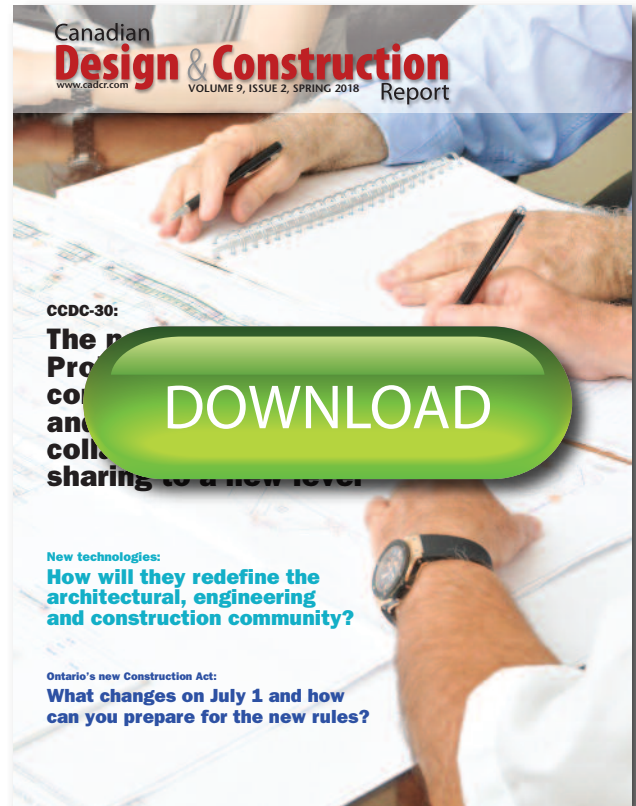
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Recent Activity		Open 5/28/2014	MTO Highway 9 Holland Drainage Canal Bridge Replacement - Capital Contract (Public) 0038012914	Central Ontario	Heavy/Civil	
Projects		Open 5/27/2014	Toronto 2015 Pan American Games Seating (Private) 0020012814	Various/Multiple Ontario	Supply/Maint.	
Search Projects		Open 5/27/2014	Toronto 2015 Pan American Games Trailers (Private) 0019012814	Various/Multiple Ontario	Supply/Maint.	
Saved Project Searches		Open 5/27/2014	Toronto 2015 Pan American Games Scaffolding (Private) 0018012814	Various/Multiple Ontario	Supply/Maint.	
Tracked Projects		Open 5/27/2014	Toronto 2015 Pan American Games Fencing (Private) 0017012814	Various/Multiple Ontario	Supply/Maint.	
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Tracked Companies		Open 4/30/2014	MTO Highway 1 Pavement Resurfacing - Capital Contract (Public) 0050012214	Central Ontario	Heavy/Civil	
My Account		Open 4/24/2014	IO/ErinoakKids Redevelopment Design Build Finance (Private) 0019040913	Various Ontario	General Building	
		Open 4/10/2014	IO/Sheridan College Hazel McCallion Campus Phase 2 Design Build Finance (Private) 0026041112	Mississauga Ontario	General Building	
		Open 4/10/2014	Kitchener Schoerg Barn Foundation Restoration (Public) 0064020514	Kitchener Ontario	General Building	
		Open	Kitchener Schoerg Barn Excavation & Site Works	Kitchener	Heavy/Civil	

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