

THREE GENERATIONS RALLY AROUND KAWASAKI

Bill Truax's dad Ken started the construction business years ago by swapping a cow for a truck. He'd buy and deliver gravel for whoever would pay him. No land, no pit; nothing but a truck and his wits.

"Now we have six trucks, our own pit, crushing plants, and more," relates Bill, owner of Ken Truax Construction Ltd., Elmvale, Ontario. "Dad eventually acquired some property for a gravel pit. In this area we have granite, limestone, and really quite a variety of materials. We have both municipalities and private customers, and our company will do jobs up to 100 kilometers (62 miles) away."

The services they offer range from site-prep to crushing, bulldozing to water hauling, and excavating to screening top soil. One of their biggest jobs was site prep for the Atlas Block Company factory in Hillsdale, a state-of-the-art masonry and concrete manufacturing facility. Ken Truax Construction cleared over 50 acres of brush and re-graded sections, some of which had up to 4.5 meters of grade changes.

The Truax wheel-loader fleet over the years has been John Deere, Volvo, and Michigan. But they switched to Kawasaki several years ago after one was rented to help with a job. Ken's son Barrett, who also works for the company, picks up the tale.

"The Volvo L160 and Michigan 125B were the loaders I grew up on. I had never operated a Kawasaki before. We rented one as a second loader to load trucks while we were crushing. I liked it. I've operated John Deere and Cat in addition to the machines we had, and I was pleasantly surprised. It was a nice change actually. It was so smooth and really powerful. And I was a John Deere guy at the time because my granddad Ken was a big John Deere fan."

Bill adds, "My son was most impressed with that Kawasaki working at the pit. He brought it to my attention. It was doing the job the other machine was trying to do and wasn't

able to. So when it came time to replace our main loader, we bought the 85ZV-2."

As a vital piece of machinery for the company, the 85 doesn't just stay put at the company's pit. It's been trucked to a number of sites, including a structure fire where it removed burnt debris so the local fire marshal could start the investigation as well as to Springwater Township's own gravel pit where the company handles the crushing.

"I can't say enough good things about Kawasaki," says Barrett. "I'm a big Cummins guy because it is a good dependable engine. And the machine is good — smooth, fluid, with good power and great fuel economy. And McDowell Equipment's service is great. They take the time to work with you and answer questions. It's good to have someone to trust and that you can depend on."

We suspect that little Everett, the next generation to start learning the business, will grow up liking Kawasaki too.

Ken Truax Construction Ltd., is serviced by McDowell Equipment, Sudbury, Ontario.



The company spent two years doing extensive site work for Atlas Block's new factory.



Son Barrett (bottom left), Dad Bill (bottom right), and three-year-old grandson Everett proudly show off their Kawasaki 85ZV-2. Ken Truax Construction is family owned and operated. Bill's father Ken Truax (deceased) started the business over 50 years ago.

