

# QUARTER CENTURY PARTNERSHIP

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Dan Corcoran

A Canadian contractor has celebrated a 26-year association with the purchase of a new Rammer Model 5011 hammer.

It is 51 years since Ontario-based Len Corcoran Excavating, Ltd. first opened its doors. The company started with a single machine – a dozer paid for with the winnings from founder Len Corcoran's racing car successes. Under the guidance of Len's son Dan – the current president and owner - the company has grown to some 60 full-time seasonal and 30 part-time seasonal workers today. The company's equipment fleet has also expanded and today comprises 25 items of excavating equipment including 14 excavators of various sizes. The company's fleet also includes six Rammer hammers: Model 927, Model 1229, Model 4511 (3) and a newly purchased Rammer Model 5011.

## Failure to Compete

In 1987, the company purchased its first big Rammer hammer; a Model 1600HD mounted on a 235 CAT excavator that – at the time – was the second largest hydraulic hammer in Canada. "During the purchase process we demonstrated against a competitive hammer," recalls Dan Corcoran. "Actually, after seeing the limestone the Model 1600HD was able to break, the competitor refused to demonstrate their hammer. We have subsequently moved through 4510's to 4511's with the Rammer Pro Control variable speed option. We have purchased our three 4511's from Van-Ed Equipment in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada (an Allied Construction Products, LLC Distributor). Despite the distance from Ontario to British Columbia, the product support, parts availability, delivery and technical support has been great."

That relationship was strengthened still further with the purchase of Canada's first Rammer Model 5011 hammer. "We were the successful bidder on a project in Kingston, Ontario for storm, sanitary, and water infrastructure replacement that required 9,000 m<sup>3</sup> of limestone to be removed without the use of explosives," Corcoran explains. "The material is all trench rock with depths to six metres and width to four metres. We started the project with our Model 4511's, and quickly concluded we needed some additional power. So, we called Allied's Van-Ed Equipment and took the opportunity to purchase the first Model 5011 in Canada."

## Exceeding Expectations

The Rammer 5011 is mounted on a CAT 345B hydraulic excavator and has already exceeded Corcoran's expectations. "Once pressures and flows were adjusted we quickly noticed a 40 percent increase in productivity over our already effective Model 4511. The Model 5011 does not stop going into the rock, even where the limestone is hardest," Dan Corcoran concludes. "We are working in a trench application, so side scaling is inevitable, and the anti-blank feature is a life saver for the hammer and makes our operators more confident and productive. The stroke selector feature has not been used yet because all the rock so far has been very hard. But we look forward to the opportunity to switch and increase the speed of the hammer if the rock softens."