

## President's Message: Hello's and Goodbye's

Dear friends -

Time marches on and change is a constant. I'm reminded of this especially in the fall as we say goodbye - sometimes abruptly! - to our warm summer weather and hello to cool mornings and autumn colors.

We've seen some changes around our office as well in recent months. Jaroslav Solc is a civil engineer that started with our company in June. We're excited to have him on board. He's been busy inspecting the Mill/Overlay project in East Grand Forks and will be working on the new ponds in Shelly and St. Hilare in the coming months. You can learn more about him in our "Meet Our Staff" section inside.

Kellie Rygg started a few weeks ago as well as our new receptionist. Her friendly nature and sense of humor have brightened our office and we hope you get a chance to meet her when you stop by.

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to an old friend earlier this year. Don Floan, the founder of Floan-Sanders passed away on May 30. We were so glad that he was able to join us in March when we celebrated our 50th anniversary and new office addition. His company has grown tremendously since he opened for business so many years ago and his legacy of hard work and high standards will continue on. Our condolences go out to his family and all who knew him.

We also bid farewell to project engineer Shawn Muhle, who moved to Wyoming with her family in August. We wish her the best of luck and will miss her cheerful attitude.

As we continue through the fall and winter, may you find the time to enjoy the gifts of each season and appreciate all that life has to offer. And for every goodbye, may there be a hello.

- Greg Boppre, President



**The founder of Floan-Sanders, Don Floan (center), pauses for a picture with company President Greg Boppre and former partner Dean Wieland after the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new office addition on March 2, 2006.**

# Civil Talk

Fall 2006

Issue 8



## East Grand Forks' Streets Get a Facelift

The importance of maintaining your street system, especially if you have bituminous (asphalt) streets, was impressed upon the citizens of East Grand Forks this summer when approximately 60% of their street system was redone. About half of the project streets were milled and overlaid with new pavement and half were simply given a seal coat. The remaining streets in the city are concrete.

"The beginning of the project really dates back to 2003 when we completed a Pavement Management Report for the city," explained Greg Boppre of Floan-Sanders, the City's Engineer. "At that time we evaluated the entire street system and prioritized projects based on that evaluation."

According to Boppre, bituminous streets need to be regularly maintained to ensure their usefulness. He recommends a seven year cycle with streets either receiving a seal coat or being milled and overlaid, depending on their condition.

"The last time we did a seal coat for the community was 1993, so we actually missed a cycle in there because of the '97 flood," Boppre noted.

Prior to recommending any action to the City Council, Boppre completed a life cycle analysis comparing bituminous streets to concrete ones. For a 40 year life expectancy, a concrete street would

cost a homeowner approximately \$255 per front footage of property. An asphalt street's initial cost is only \$164 per front foot but when regular maintenance costs are included, the total life-cycle cost is \$260 per front foot - a \$5 difference.

"The important thing, though, is that you've got to maintain your

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**The crew from Astech applies the seal coat near First Lutheran Church on 5th Street NW.**

## New Ponds for Shelly and St. Hilare

Jonithan Meyer, the City of Shelly's Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator, may have saved his community a lot of money. That's because Meyer noticed something that no one else did: that the banks of the City's wastewater ponds were eroding.

"You couldn't see it when you walked the site," explained Brad Bail, Vice-President at Floan-Sanders, the City's Consulting

Engineer. "We even had Minnesota Pollution Control Agency representatives out there and they didn't notice it. But when you look over the edge of the bank, it's pretty clear. It's a good thing he saw it and called us."

Floan-Sanders staff immediately designed an emergency repair plan for the ponds, closing the secondary pond which was near the eroding

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# Civil Talk

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## Streets . . . Continued from page 1

bituminous streets or else it will cost you a whole lot more to replace them," reminded Boppre.

Work started on the projects in early July and was 98% complete in early September. A few roads, including River Road which was affected by work on the Corps project, will be finished in the next few weeks. MinDak Asphalt out of Crookston did the mill and overlay work and Astech, a company out of St. Cloud, MN, completed the seal coats.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$1.7 million, which will be

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- Greg Boppre, Floan-Sanders

funded by special assessments to benefiting property owners. Floan-Sanders staff is currently completing the assessment roles to determine the cost for each property owner.

"We've had a lot of compliments from citizens and Council members," Boppre said. "They really have noticed a difference in the streets."

Floan-Sanders has completed Pavement Management Reports for the Cities of Warren and Warroad as well. "It's a good tool for budgeting and prioritizing projects," Boppre admits. "It really

helps communities set their priorities and decide what needs to be done immediately and what projects can wait."

If you think your community could benefit from a Pavement Management Analysis, feel free to contact Boppre at (218) 773-5620 for more information. ◇



**The difference is clear on this section of roadway where half of the street has already been overlaid with new asphalt.**

## FS Behind the Scenes : Out in the Field

Summertime means getting out in the field for Floan-Sanders staff. Whether we're watching a project we've designed come to life or gathering data for the next one, we're usually outdoors, rain or shine. Here are a few shots from the summer of 2006.



**Above: Brad Bail and Steve Emery watch the application of a seal coat on the corner of Central Avenue and 6th St. NW. Right: Shawn Muhle inspects the seal coat project. Far right above: Steve Emery presents an aerial photo of the City of Badger to Clerk-Treasurer Pam Monsrud in honor of the community's centennial celebration. Far right below: Tom Stenseth checks out a low spot in the curb and gutter in EGF, which will be corrected during the mill and overlay application.**



## Meet our staff: Jaroslav Solc

One of the newest members of our Floan-Sanders family, Jaroslav Solc graduated from the University of North Dakota last May with a degree in civil engineering. Originally from the Czech Republic, Jaroslav moved to Grand Forks with his family in 1990 when his father got a job with the EERC. His mother, Jarmila coaches figure skating. Jaroslav also has two younger brothers - Tom, who is a junior at UND and plans to go into dentistry, and Michael, who is 9 years old and attends Viking Elementary. Jaroslav spent most of his summer inspecting the Mill/Overlay project in East Grand Forks.



**When did you know you wanted to do this type of work?** When I was younger, I knew that I wouldn't want to sit in an office from 8-5 and never get to go out. I really think that engi-

neering enables you to get out in the field and actually see the designs at work. I was always a fan of math and civil engineering felt like the logical choice considering those two things.

**What is your favorite part of the job so far?** I'd have to say not being constrained to my desk and getting the opportunity to work outside is definitely one of the best. I also enjoy getting to know new people from surrounding communities and working with them.

**What are your hobbies?** I am a really big fan of the outdoors and always need something to do. I love playing any type of sports and love going to the lake during the summer. During the winter I play hockey outside almost every day and also enjoy going skiing to Big Sky.

**Do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you?** I think my mentor is definitely my dad. He has a lot of great qualities and is a very accomplished individual. He is a tremendously hard worker, athletic, and also plays the guitar. He is also one of the smartest people I know, and the reason that my family moved to Grand Forks. The most amazing thing about him is, that no matter how much work he has, he always finds time for the family and is a great father. ◇

## Ponds . . . Continued from page 1

bank, and separating the primary pond into a primary and secondary cell. The repair work was completed in the fall of 2005 at a cost of about \$80,000.

"If the bank had eroded completely, there may have been catastrophic failure of the ponds," predicted Bail, "because the earthen wall separating the primary and secondary cells probably couldn't have withstood such a fast discharge of the secondary cell."

With the emergency repair work done, and with the City's blessing, Floan-Sanders staff then started design of a more permanent fix for the wastewater ponds. Unfortunately, the identification of half an acre of wetlands on the proposed site of the new pond cell delayed the project and forced the City to find a new site. Negotiations are underway with another owner of suitable land nearby.

"Unfortunately, once we didn't have a suitable site approved, we lost our Rural Development funding," noted Bail. "But once the City acquires the property, we should be able to get the design done and funding secured again. It's just all part of the process."

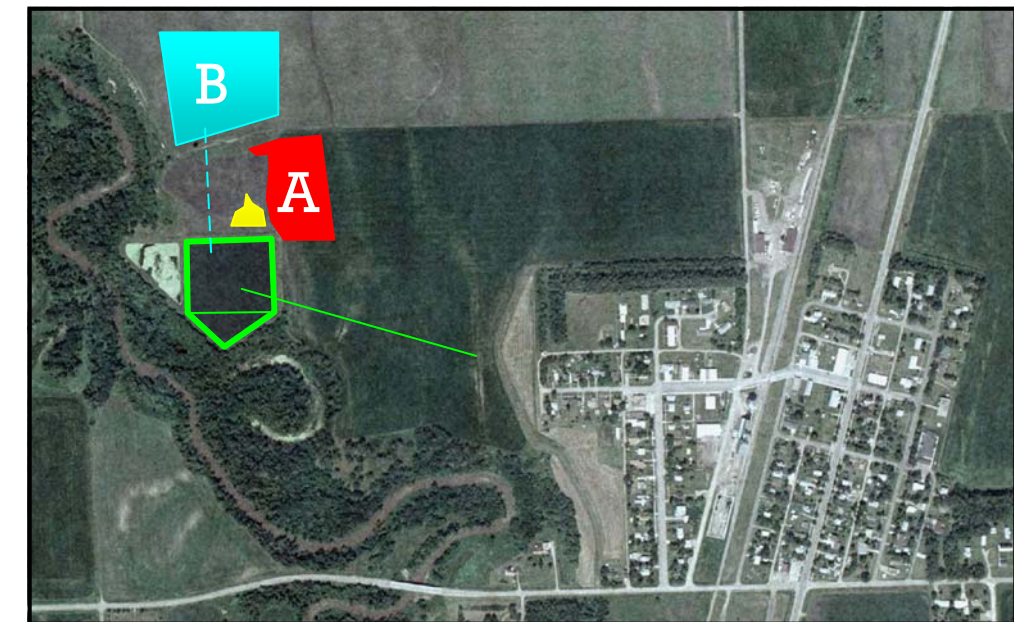
And Shelly isn't the only city dealing with wastewater pond issues. The City of St. Hilare has ponds that are leaking as well. Floan-Sanders completed a rough design of a new system and recently received approval to

begin plans and specs for that community's ponds.

"It's not that uncommon to have these issues," Bail explained. "Most of the smaller ponds built in this area were constructed in the 1960's and 70's and many are exhibiting the same problems. They weren't as stringent back then either and things have just gotten worse and

worse."

If you suspect that your community's ponds may be in need of repair or replacement, feel free to contact Bail at 218-773-5621. "We're always willing to come talk to city officials if they are having problems," he noted. And, it may save the community a lot of money in the long run. ◇



**The City of Shelly's existing primary pond is shown in green. It was divided into two cells as an emergency repair (the former secondary cell is the lighter triangle to the left.) A small area of wetlands (yellow) prevented any construction immediately to the north and Option A was considered too small. Design is commencing on a new primary pond in Area B, which will be connected to the existing pond via an underground line.**