

## Fitting In

Kirkor Architects is designing Twenty One Clairtrell to sit comfortably in its new neighbourhood.  
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## On the Pulse

After more than a century, Alfred Horie Construction continues introducing new building methods.  
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CANADA [www.bandccanada.com](http://www.bandccanada.com)

# BUILDING BOOM

High-tech capital Markham, Ontario, is enjoying a surge in construction activity. *Page 14*



"We are very diversified and have long-term clients we've been working with for the last 25 to 30 years."

> John Paone, vice president of development, partner

# Decades of Innovation

+ Alfred Horie Construction prides itself on its use of new durable building methods that provide project owners with energy-efficient and cost-saving options. *By Jim Harris*

## Alfred Horie Construction

[www.ahc1893.com](http://www.ahc1893.com)

Headquarters: Burnaby, British Columbia

Specialty : Design/build, construction management and general contracting

Employees: 30 to 50

Revenues : \$18 million

> **Throughout its nearly 119-year history**, Alfred Horie Construction (AHC) has demonstrated a propensity toward innovation. The company installed the first tilt-up concrete panels in Western Canada on Aug. 25, 1946.

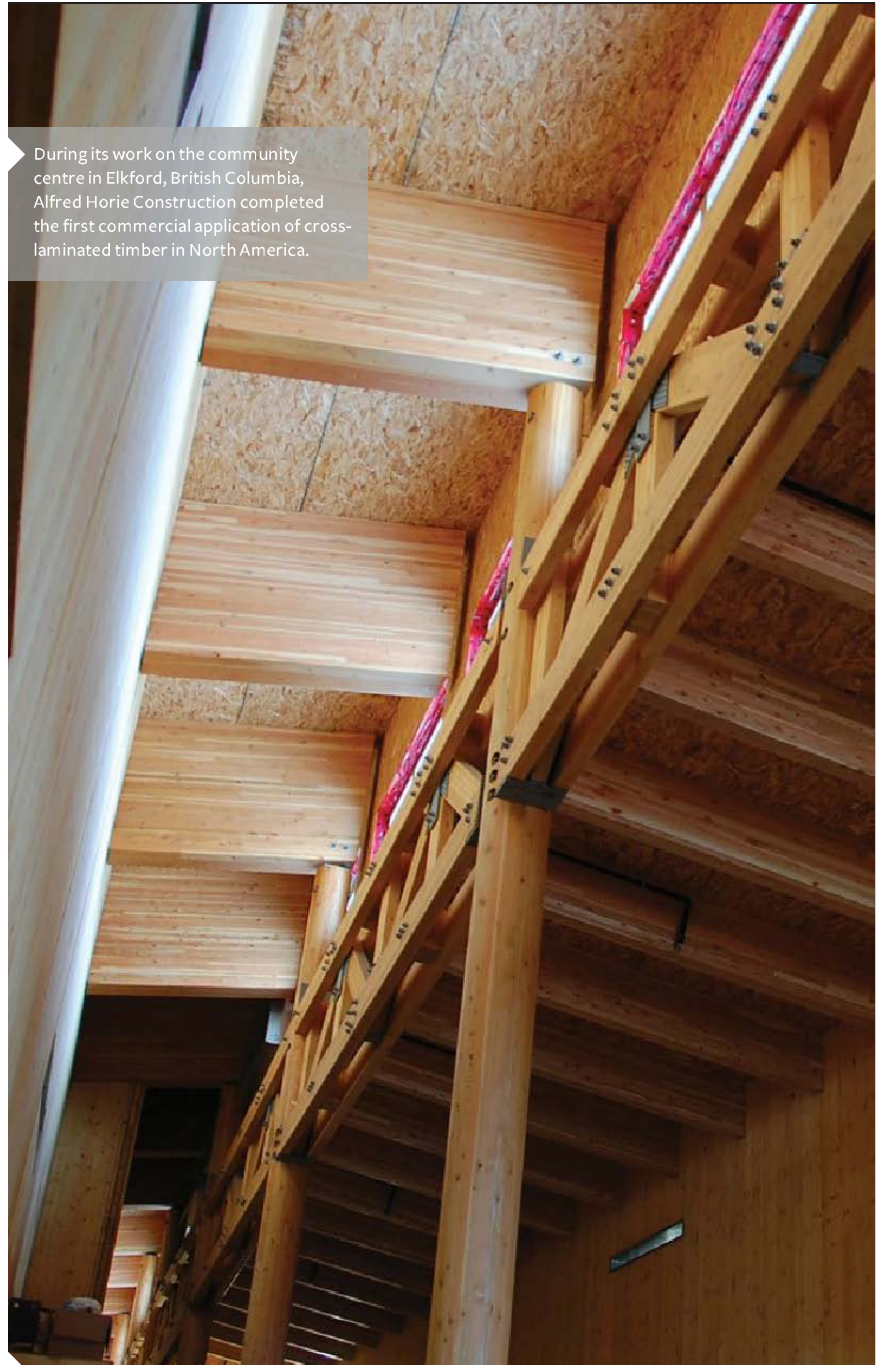
Today, the Burnaby, British Columbia-based contractor continues to introduce new building methods to the region. The company, founded in 1893, provides full-service design/build, construction management and general contracting services to clients in the commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.

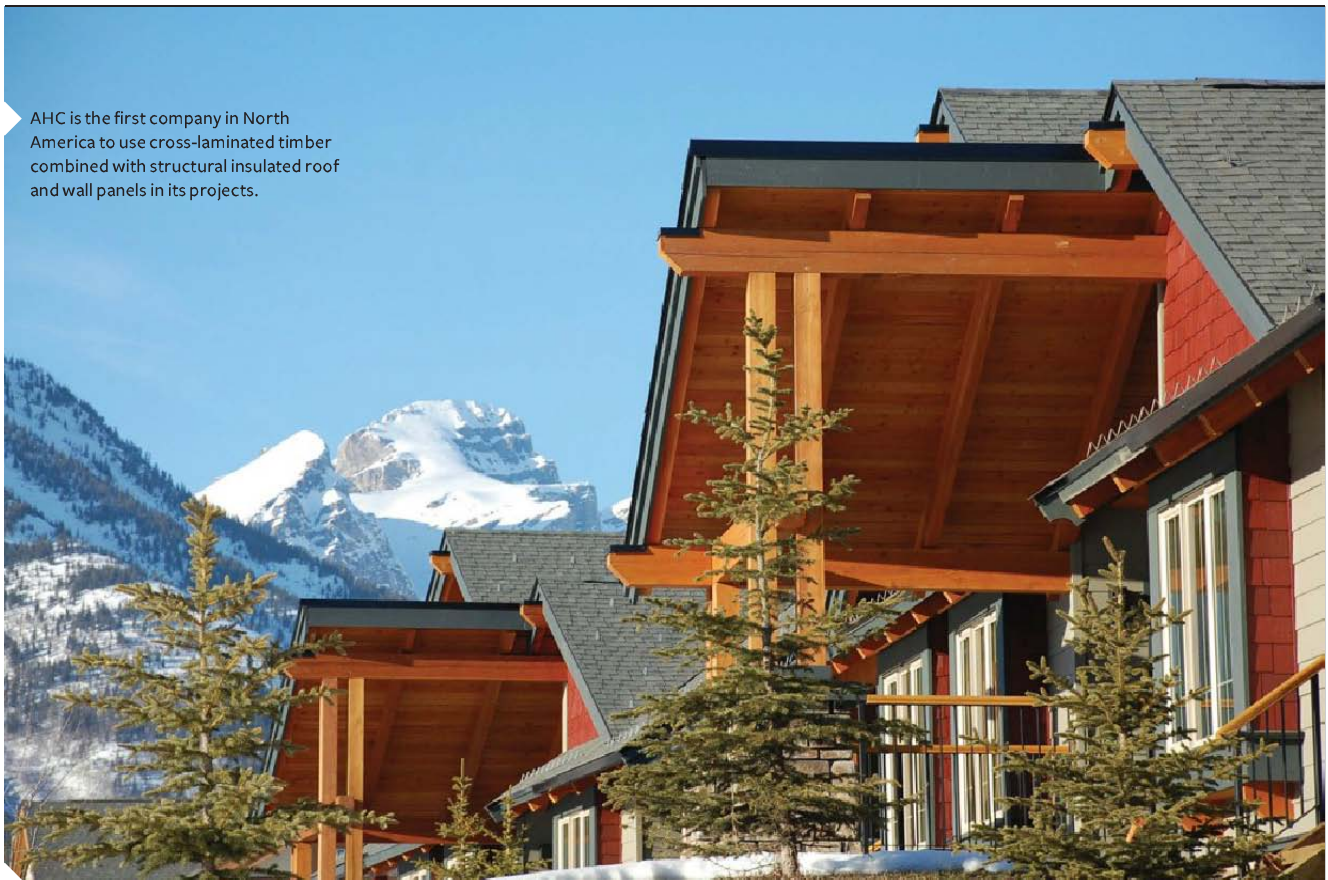
"We are very diversified and have long-term clients we've been working with for the last 25 to 30 years in a variety of construction types," Vice President of Development/Partner John Paone says, noting McDonald's restaurants and IGA grocery stores as examples. "When one sector is slow, the other may be busy, so we're never slowed down during the recession, we've actually gotten busier because of our track record of customer service and completing projects on time and on budget."

## An Industry First

AHC is the first company in North America to use cross-laminated timber (CLT) combined with structural insulated roof and wall panels (SIPs) in its projects. CLTs are widely used and manufactured in Europe. The SIP and CLT

During its work on the community centre in Elkford, British Columbia, Alfred Horie Construction completed the first commercial application of cross-laminated timber in North America.





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systems are applied in a similar manner to tilt-up concrete construction, which allows for faster jobs, Paone adds.

“One of our goals this year is to work as a consulting firm to other companies who want to use these systems on their projects and either install them or advise on how to install,” Paone says. “The panels are easy to install, and the CLTs can, when required for structural reasons, replace steel-frame or structural concrete foundations.”

The use of CLT and SIP systems also offers owners an energy-efficient and cost-saving option. SIPs create an airtight building envelope and have a larger R-Value than traditional framing systems, the company says.

The SIP system was put to use in 2010 on the construction of a McDonalds restaurant in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. The project went from demo-

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*“We really take a team approach. I think most of the subs who work with us see a huge, positive difference. Everything is closely coordinated, so our subs know when it’s their time to work, everything will be ready.”*

lition of an existing building to the erection and opening of a new 8,600-square-foot store in 10 weeks, more than six weeks ahead of schedule when compared to conventional framing.

In February 2012, the company anticipated completion of a \$6.5 million, 18,000-square-foot community centre in Elkford, B.C. This project, which started in May 2011, is the first commercial application of CLTs in North America, Paone says.

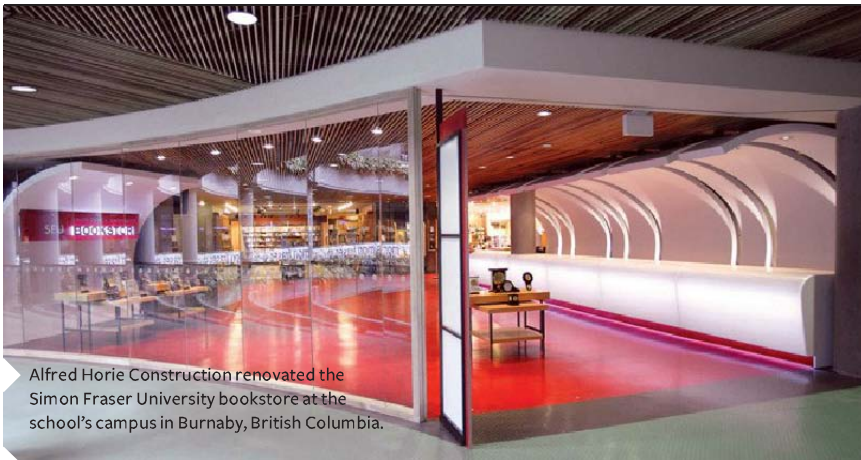
Using the CLT and SIP systems, Alfred Horie Construction was able to put an entire insulated building structure up in 40 days following foundation work. The centre, located on a former elementary school site, will include an auditorium, a kitchen, a multipurpose community room, a visitor information centre and chamber of commerce offices.

### **The Personal Touch**

AHC’s expertise in innovative building methods and diverse capabilities help

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**Doug Sollows Architect** The Town of Elkford wanted a signature building that reflected the optimism of growth in this Resource/Tourism Community in South Eastern B.C. and incorporating the dynamic forms found in the surrounding mountains. This project has been designed using pre-manufactured wood elements and systems to create the structure, building envelope and the aesthetic in one complete package; a significant industry initiative integrating architectural form and space, structural engineering, manufacturing, fabrication and on-site construction.



Alfred Horie Construction renovated the Simon Fraser University bookstore at the school's campus in Burnaby, British Columbia.

distinguish it in the eyes of prospective clients. “We really service our customers and they know we have a track record of building projects on schedule, and that we’re very open about pricing

and cost and have nothing to hide,” Paone says. “We’re not the biggest company around, but we’ve been here a long time and distinguished ourselves through our reputation.

“We’re never had aspirations to become a bigger company,” he adds. “We want to stay smaller and really put an emphasis on personalized service.”

The family owned company’s level of service is enhanced by its experienced employees, many of whom have been with the company for up to 40 years. AHC also employs a number of certified and journeymen carpenters, which allows it to self-perform much of its work. The company uses subcontractors for electrical, mechanical and other services.

“We really take a team approach,” Paone stresses. “I think most of the subcontractors who work with us see a huge, positive difference. Everything on our projects is closely coordinated, so our subcontractors know when it’s their time to go to work, everything will be ready for them.”

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inc. twenty+ years