



Versatile Fab & Machine Debuts Traveling Saw System

Advertorial

Versatile Fab & Machine Ltd. has worked with all the major engineering firms in an effort to manufacture high quality material handling systems for the forest industry, sawmills, OSB, LVL and plywood plants for the past 20 years. The company served the industry from their original facility in Prince George, B.C. and now from their current location in Kelowna, B.C., where they have been located for the past nine years.

Recently Versatile Fab & Machine has been working to manufacture production equipment which includes lumber sorters, edger optimizer infeeds and Pointer/Domer optimized fence post systems.

"We felt we could better serve our customers by expanding our product line," says company president Brad Macaulay. "We have the extensive shop facilities to turn out quality products, and back up those products with excellent customer support."

Versatile Fab & Machine's latest product is the VFM Traveling Log Cut-off System, which was introduced as a 36" diameter prototype at the 2002 Wood Technology Clinic and Show in Portland, Oregon. This prototype is the culmination of a continuous development over the last 13 years. The first Saw system was installed at Pope & Talbot Ltd. in their Castlegar, BC sawmill.

The log diet at the Castlegar mill consists of stems up to 66', with an average stem length of 32'. After a review of their log stem diet needs, Pope & Talbot's design team of Allen Selander, Mechanical Designer; Bill Kazakoff, Project Manager; and Dennis Orem, Process Control Specialist, requested Versatile Fab & Machine to supply the Castlegar mill with a dual 72" diameter three saw per side system.

Versatile Fab & Machine manufactured all the requirements for the VFM Traveling Saw System which included the overhead stem sweep, merchandizing deck, rollcase, COS outfeed belt and the dual line (3) 72" Traveling Saw System. The system controls were supplied by Pacific Industrial Controls, the VFDs by Arrow Speed Controls and the scanning equipment by Porter Engineering.

The Castlegar project brought its own set of challenges, which Versatile Fab & Machine were able to meet. "The system was designed to fit into a very limited existing space," explained Brad Macaulay. "But we worked closely with the Pope & Talbot people to make sure that we were able to meet their requirements."

These saws are capable of traveling up to 144" per second. The system in place at the Castlegar mill is producing over 6000 blocks on average in a 460 minute shift, but has already produced 7500 blocks and has the potential to exceed over 8000 blocks per shift.

"The success of any project depends on the way the equipment has been fabricated," noted Al Selander, of Pope & Talbot Ltd.



Versatile Fab & Machine has proven time and again that they have the outstanding ability to provide top quality workmanship, Selander said. "The pride and professionalism that the entire company puts into their work shows on each job that they have done for us. With the Log Merchandiser that was recently installed in our Castlegar sawmill, the quality and care that Versatile Fab takes with every job was definitely proven once again. Brad was there every step of the way meeting whatever needs we had. Kudos to Brad and everyone at Versatile Fab for another job well done."

When designing the mechanical components for this saw system, Versatile Fab & Machine considered all aspects of design, from the type of mechanical products used to fabricate this system, right through to maintenance.

"We used products that are well known in the sawmill industry," says plant manager David Krulic. The quality component line-up included Nord reducers, Baldor electric motors, QM bearings, McGill bearings, Gates-Poly chain and sheaves, and Martin Products. "This combination made for a very user-friendly system," added Krulic.

This latest project builds on the solid reputation Versatile Fab & Equipment has as an Equipment Supplier to the North American forestry industry. In addition to Pope & Talbot, their clients have included Canfor, Interfor, Louisiana Pacific, Riverside Forest Products, Tolko Industries, West Fraser and Weyerhaeuser.

"The company works with clients through the design stages of their projects, from initial concept to final installation", says Macaulay. "After twenty years in business our clients know they can rely on our expertise, our competitive pricing and our firm commitment to do the job right the first time."

From their new VFM Traveling Log Cut-off Systems to material handling systems, from basic structural steel to motorized spiral staircases for observatory viewing platforms, Versatile Fab & Machine provides guaranteed, quality products, delivered on budget and on time. A full list of their clients and products is available on their web site at www.versatilefab.ca.

Thanks to Pope & Talbot Ltd.

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The VFM Traveling Saw System
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