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Michael Cant
Whitby Location Leader
Golder Associates Ltd.

Chris Kellestine
Principal
Ground Engineering Division
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A Golder Standard

Golder Associates’ Whitby team ensures that projects are built on a solid foundation

There should be little surprise that Golder Associates was attracted to Whitby as early as 1985, as the thriving community was already home to a growing list of projects which could be supported by geotechnical engineers and a laboratory to test construction materials.

As a leader in geotechnical and environmental consulting services, Golder has always been committed to establishing a presence in communities it serves, adds Chris Kellestine, a Principal in Golder’s Ground Engineering Division. Golder sponsors many local sports teams, the Town of Whitby’s Earth Day and several local charitable organizations including Feed the Need.

Since 1985, Golder Associates has continued to grow its services—no longer focused primarily on geotechnical engineering. In the Whitby office alone, there are now archaeology, biosciences, environmental and waste services as well, which complement their global consulting, design, and construction services in earth, environment, and related areas of energy.

Golder’s business approach, to have local offices globally, has led the firm to open offices in 160 locations around the world. As part of their global focus, in 2003 Golder formed Golder Trust for Orphans to provide support to children and families in Africa who have been orphaned or displaced by the AIDS pandemic.

Of Golder’s 7,000 employees around the world, the Whitby location is home to more than 150 and supports the largest materials testing laboratory in the eastern Greater Toronto Area. Here, construction materials such as asphalt are tested to see if they can withstand the stresses that emerge whenever rubber hits the road, highway or airport runway. In many cases, this work has played a key role in enhancing the local transportation network, supporting projects such as the railway grade separations on Garden Street and Rossland Road.

Of course, a sound transportation network plays another important role in Golder’s ongoing success.

Community of Choice...for Business

Fast Fact Golder Associates’ Whitby location has the largest materials testing lab in the Eastern GTA.



“We do work downtown, in Mississauga and throughout the GTA, so having easy access to highways and the GO [Train] is a great benefit from the point of view of our operations,” notes Whitby Location Leader Michael Cant, who is also the Canadian Waste Sector Leader.

“We’re located just off the 401 on Thickson [Road], so we obviously have very good access to the 401, and now with the 407 coming farther east, it is a real opportunity for us as it keeps our people mobile.”

The Whitby team’s expertise also reaches well beyond the GTA. “We actually have people in this office right now working on projects in South Africa,” Cant adds. “Another good example of a project that we’ve done would be the Confederation Bridge [the world’s largest bridge over ice-covered water that links Prince Edward Island with mainland New Brunswick], where Golder did all the geotechnical work.”

Complex projects like these obviously require employees with advanced skills from schools all over the world. Locally, those are enhanced through a strong relationship with schools including Durham College and University of Ontario Institute of Technology, particularly in their work around the emerging renewable energy sector. “Our business is a skill-based business,” Cant continues. “It’s a great benefit for us being here in Whitby because we have some excellent resources in our own backyard.”

The quick access to local resources even extends to related supplies. Many of the office and laboratory’s consumables are acquired from nearby local suppliers, Kellestine adds.

Ongoing renovations and expansions at Golder’s Whitby site will soon create a new laboratory and offices to house about 220 employees. “The bottom line is we’re a growing business, and in order to grow we need to have a collaborative, state of the art working environment for people,” Cant says.

The Town of Whitby’s Economic Development Office will be supporting the business every step of the way.

“We’re currently in the midst of evaluating our longer-term needs and building to suit those needs,” Kellestine says. “The Town has been very supportive in that, and allowed us to continue to grow with very little—actually, I would say no—challenges at all.”

Web: www.golder.ca