



VERTI-CRETE NEWS

"THE EVOLUTION OF PRECASTING"

Verti-Crete Sound Wall
Limits Damage
p. 1

Verti-Block Retaining Wall
in Euphoric Demand
p. 1

Introducing: Verti-Crete's
Newest Licensee
p. 3

Verti-Crete Sound Wall Limits Damage

A twin engine aircraft with two pilots and a passenger on board slammed into a Verti-Crete Sound Wall in Saskatoon, Canada on Friday, April 1st. Unfortunately, the passenger died at the scene but the good news was that further fatalities were averted. It was the Verti-Crete Sound Wall that stopped the plane from crashing into several homes and perhaps saving the lives of many.



Emergency crews attend to the wreckage of a twin-engine airplane in Saskatoon.

(continued on page 2)

Verti-Block Retaining Wall in Euphoric Demand

People all around the world are recognizing and enjoying the perks of Verti-Block. A hollow, interlocking block measuring 2' x 4' x 3' provides a beautiful, cost-effective earth retaining solution. Not only is it the perfect size for any project, but it can stack a gravity wall up to 12' high (and even higher when reinforced).

George Roberts Company produced Verti-Block for a project with Maietta Enterprises in Biddeford, Maine. Maietta Enterprises is owned by the Biddeford Housing Authority. The project is now called 'My Sister's Place' and is established for low income housing.

Craig Babbidge, an Estimator/ Project Manager with Maietta Enterprises, needed an attractive solution for a rather difficult wall problem, and Verti-Block fit the bill.



(continued on page 3)

Verti-Crete Sound Wall Limits Damage (cont'd from page 1)

A twin engine airplane crashed into a sound barrier along a busy street in Saskatoon's north end Friday evening, April 1st- killing one person on-board.

"I looked up and the plane was right above us and I saw the faces of the pilots. I remember seeing their faces. They looked terrified," said eyewitness Jayden Ernst.

Just before 6: 30 p.m., the airplane plunged from the sky, skimmed condominium buildings to the southeast of the intersection of Wanuskewin Road and 51st Street and smashed into the sound wall on the east side of Wanuskewin.



"It looked like they were going to hit the houses. They were trying to land on the road, but there were cars everywhere, so he went for the wall," added Ernst, who was in the Extra Foods parking lot across the street when the crash happened.

Traffic was steady in both directions along Wanuskewin with those in vehicles heading north apparently unaware of the approaching plane.

"The drivers hadn't even noticed because it was right behind them. The wing was right over the cars and then (the drivers) slammed on the brakes."

Matthew and Rachel Hrycuik were heading south on Wanuskewin when they saw the plane coming toward them.

"It was dropping really fast," said Matthew.

The light twin engine plane was on approach to Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport, but one of its engines had failed, Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services said. Five kilometres from the airport, the plane lost power.

Immediately after the crash, instincts kicked in for the Hrycuiks. He is a member of the Canadian Forces and his wife works as an EMT. They stopped, checked for downed power lines concerned about a possible fire, and went to work.

"We thought if there's people moving inside there, obviously

something has to be done," said Matthew.

"The pilot was fine. When I first came up and sort of banged on the window, he acknowledged me."

Hrycuik removed the debris from the back of the cockpit, which had been torn wide open on impact, and pulled the pilot and co-pilot to safety.

"I grabbed the co-pilot out first because he was in worse condition. He thought he had broken both his legs, they were all twisted up."

Ernst also ran to help. By the time he reached the plane, the two men were being helped out of the aircraft.

"The older man, he had blood running all down his face and he was shaking. He got carried out of the cockpit and he was shaking violently," said Ernst.

The 42-year-old pilot and the 57-year-old co-pilot were taken to Royal University Hospital in stable condition, according to MD Ambulance. A third man who was a passenger in the airplane died at the scene. He is not from Saskatchewan. Saskatoon police were still trying to contact his family late Friday night, said city police Staff Sgt. Kirby Harmon.

The aircraft, white with reddish-orange wing tips, is owned by Fugro Companies, which has divisions that conduct aerial surveys and is known for its work involving surveys over resource properties in Saskatchewan.

Fire trucks from Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services and the Saskatoon airport responded to the scene and were on standby at the airport. Initial reports indicated the airplane had 1,000 pounds on fuel onboard.

Police and fire crews continued to be at the crash site into the night Friday, cleaning up debris strewn along the roadway. The body of the airplane was perched on the sound wall with one broken wing resting on the pavement and the other wing hanging over the wall, just a few feet from the backyards of homes along Nordstrum Road.

"Unbelievable. How tragic that someone died in this crash, but the Verti-Crete wall probably saved many other lives!"

- Frances S. Edgar

"I heard a big bang and I was sure it was the gas pumps exploding across the street (at Extra Foods). It shook the house and all I saw was a big cloud of dust," said Bohdan Machula, who immediately went out to his backyard.

"The police said to go inside. It might explode." Hours after the crash and in the safety of their home, the Machulas were relieved and thankful.

"I always complain about that wall, but it saved a lot of people," said Vera Machula.

Verti-Crete Sound Wall Limits Damage (cont'd from page 2)

"Just imagine. It could have hit and burned our houses down," added Bohdan, gesturing to their neighbours' homes.

It was the explosive sound that got the attention of the employees of the Extra Foods. Jason Phillips had just finished filling a propane tank and was headed into the store.

"It was just a big boom and I thought it was the propane going off," said Phillips, an evening supervisor at Extra Foods.

But there was no fire and no explosion, just crumpled metal and the underside of the plane torn open. One section of the sound barrier is gone while the top half of another section is also demolished.

Investigators with Transport Canada, based in Winnipeg, are expected to be in Saskatoon to begin their work. The crash scene, the area adjacent to Wanuskewin Road, will be cordoned off while the investigation continues.

(The StarPhoenix - April 2011)



Introducing Verti-Crete's Newest Licensee: **Prestressed Casting Co.**

**Keith Wallis, Jr. - General Manager
Springfield, Missouri, USA**

Join us in welcoming Prestressed Casting Co. as our newest licensee! With over 29 years of experience in the industry, Keith Wallis, Jr. and team are looking forward to supplying Verti-Crete precast products throughout Missouri and the Midwest.

Prestressed Casting Company has been providing both precast and prestressed concrete products to the construction industry in southern Missouri, northern Arkansas, and adjacent states since 1957. They have two plants, one in Springfield, Missouri and one in Ozark, Missouri. Prestressed Casting Company specializes in both structural and architectural concrete products, as well as a combination of the two in one single product.

Visit Prestressed Casting Co. at:
www.prestressedcasting.com

Verti-Block Retaining Wall in Euphoric Demand (cont'd from page 1)



The wall needed an inside and outside corner with the outside corner being a bit sharper than 90 degrees. George Roberts Company was able to accomplish this by using the corner blocks and then building a small radius into the shorter of the two walls coming off the corner. Verti-Block's simple yet innovative design was the perfect size and right solution.

The project plans called for a wall totaling 608 square feet. After reviewing the plans and establishing a completion date with the team at George Roberts Company, the work quickly began.

George Roberts Company prepared and produced the number of Verti-Blocks necessary for completion in advance and also cast several additional blocks- keeping these in stock for any last minute needs. What is even more astounding than their quick production was their turn-around time to install. In September of 2010, Verti-Block installation and project completion was achieved in only one and a half days.

Using a variety of the block shapes - including the standard block, half block, top block, and corner block - the project required minimal labor and equipment for a quick and easy install. This helped cut back on costs and fulfill project needs within budget.

Because George Roberts Company used Verti-Block, they were able to create a remarkable eye-catching retaining wall



implicating an extremely realistic stone texture. Verti-Block added beauty and sophistication to all of its surroundings.



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