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NEWS IN BRIEF

Boomerang Tracking reported the successful recovery of a stolen 2002 Caterpillar 216 backhoe loader in Ontario. The machine, stolen from a equipment rental firm in Durham Region, just east of Toronto, was found June 19 outside a private residence in London, two hours west of Toronto. The police obtained a warrant, and succeeded in arresting a suspect.

Time Now To REC . . . With Care

Demolition contractors are charged with the responsibility of cleaning the slate on society.

They craftily take apart those often stark structures that housed yesterday's workers, shoppers and neighbours, working long after everyone's seemingly gone very far away. And, once they're done their work, then someone with a fresh new idea arrives on the scene, ready to build a new chapter.

Impersonal stuff, huh?

Absolutely not, as Don Bremner will attest to.

Bremner is Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Restoration Environmental Contractors (REC), the company currently at work taking down the six residential apartment buildings that represent the first phase of the City of Toronto Revitalization Project in Regent Park.

The downing of the six buildings at Regent Park, located on the east side of the downtown core, represents a turning of the page for the City of Toronto. Today's municipal fathers are keen to shed the image of an inner-city, low-income, subsidized housing complex built on the mindset of governments more than two generations ago.

Editor's Notebook

Mike Anderson



It may not have been the most prestigious address in Toronto, but Regent Park was indeed home to many, as Bremner and his honourable crew have witnessed first-hand. This, too, even as the workers and their fleet of ever-humming, demolition-equipped Caterpillar carriers are the only living things seemingly left, again typically

long after everyone else has moved on.

"A lot of people have been by here salvaging bricks," says Bremner, a true gentleman, "... people who started their life in Canada through this area.

"A lot of new Canadians came in through Regent Park," he understands. "A lot of good people grew up in this area, in the centre of Toronto."

Pending continued funding from all levels of government, the entire Revitalization Project at Regent Park is 12 years in length.

At work in the southwest quadrant of the Regent Park complex, located at the corner of Dundas and Parliament streets, the REC crew should have its first-phase demolition work finished by this October.

"The Caterpillars are working great. We're very happy with them," says Bremner. "We've got them plumbed for many different types of operations, and they've been phenomenal for us . . . a great investment, really."

Machines acquired from authorized Caterpillar dealer Toromont in July, 2004, a 330C L and two 345B L units were on this day busy pulverizing and separating low-level debris at buildings already brought down. At the same time, a high-reach 330C L equipped with a rotating shear was artfully taking apart the sixth floor of another building.

"I could use a couple more of those," says Bremner, who is genuinely honoured to have been given the opportunity for a project of such civic significance.

"The Revitalization Project's a positive image on the city," says Bremner. "It's a re-creation."

One that, he understands fully, means more than bricks and mortar.

And what of those buildings coming down?

Structurally, they're incredibly sound, and a good matchup for the Caterpillars, says Bremner.

That only stands to reason.

Mike Anderson, Editor of Equipment Journal, welcomes your input. Please send your e-mails to editor@equipmentjournal.com.

