

SAM & MINNIE TURNER

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



TURNER & SONS CONSTRUCTION LTD.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF BUILDING EXCELLENCE



SAM TURNER

1864-1952



CHARLES T.M. TURNER SR.

1891-1976



CHARLES W. TURNER

GENERAL MANAGER



CLIFF J. TURNER
OPERATIONS MANAGER



JOHN C. TURNER
PROJECTS SUPERINTENDENT

- PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- RESIDENTIAL

- GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
- PRE-ENGINEERED STEEL BUILDINGS
- RENOVATIONS AND REPAIR
- CONCRETE

PUT US ON YOUR BUILDING TEAM

9819-97 Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alberta

Company is Turner heirloom

Great-grandsons keep construction business alive in GP

By NICOLE COUILLARD
Herald-Tribune staff

Like most families, the Turners have a heirloom.

But it's not a vase or an old book, or for that matter, any other kind of trinket — it's a construction business.

Although the company has had to modify its name to accommodate the Son to Sons, Turner and Sons Construction Ltd. has been a part of Grande Prairie for over 30 years.

The company is now in its fourth generation. It was started by Sam Turner, taken over by his son Charles, then Charles Jr. and now Cliff.

Over the years the business had kept true to Turner and Sons. Cliff is now manager, but both his brother John and father Charles are working for the company.

"My father is probably the hardest working guy I know," Cliff said. "He's going to be 74 this week and it's almost amazing how he can work the physical labor right along side any other worker."

"It's an overwhelming feeling to be working for a company that was started by my great-grandfather. I can walk down main street (Richmond Ave.) and see the buildings the Turners have worked on."

"I certainly feel some degree of responsibility to keep the business going."

He originally thought the construction business wasn't for him. Even though he worked the summers for his father, Cliff wandered in another direction.

After spending some time in Vancouver, Cliff eventually went to NAIT to study construction engineering.

When he came back to Grande Prairie in early-1979, Cliff started his own company that specialized in pre-engineered steel buildings.

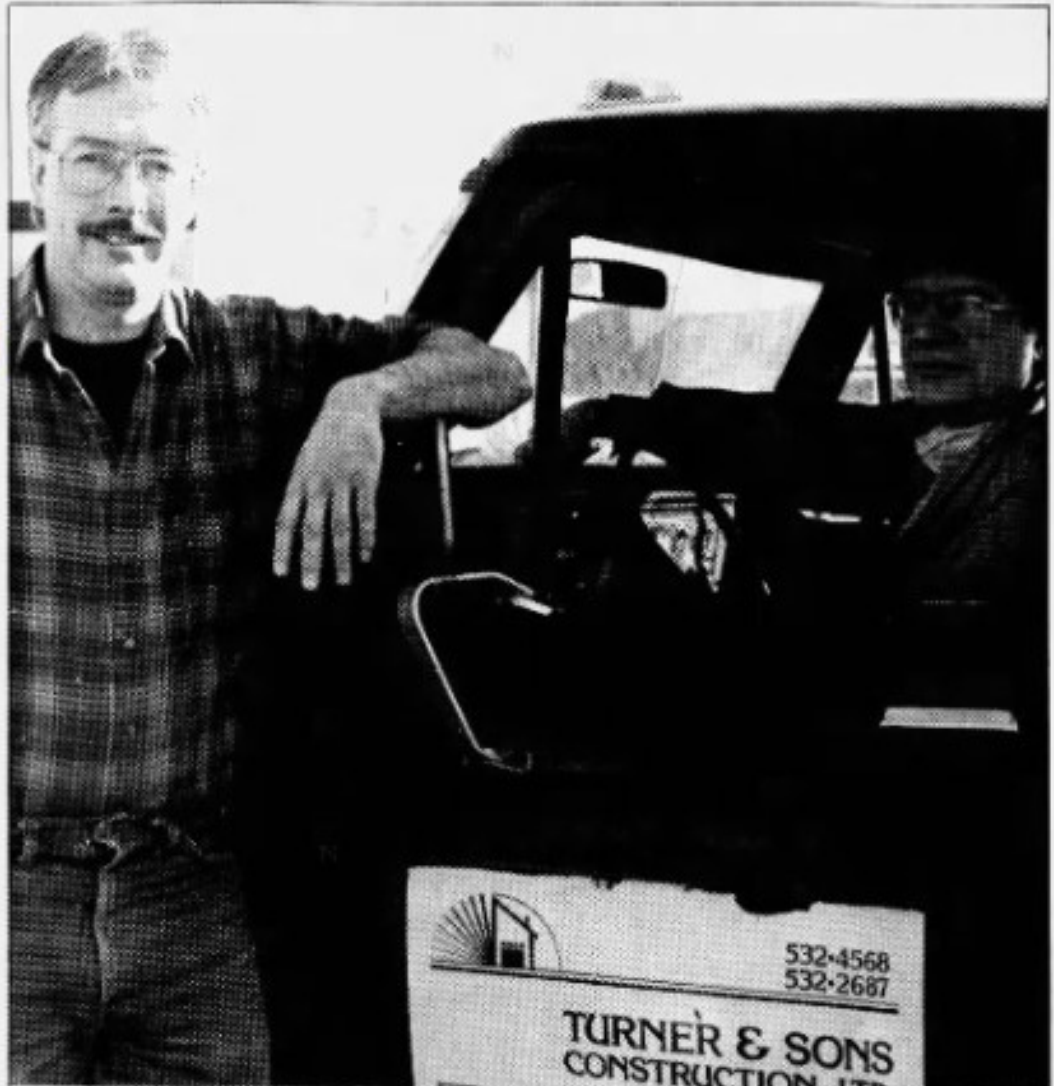
A couple of years later, Cliff's company merged with Turner and Son Building Construction Ltd. — later to become Turner and Sons Building Construction Ltd.

"My grandfather gave me my first set of tools when I was six," said Cliff, "but I was always encouraged to become an architect or an engineer."

Cliff said he'll encourage his son, now six, to pursue any ambition.

"I'm not too worried about it because he wants to be a policeman."

The merging of the companies brought new ideas to Turner and Sons Construction.



Staff Photo by Nicole Couillard

Cliff Turner, seated in the truck, and brother John, are keeping the Sons in Turner and Sons alive.

"I brought some knowledge in structural designing, while my brother is a construction tradesman. It certainly has its advantages because all the bases are covered well."

But when opinions differ it isn't always easy, admits Cliff, "especially if you're family," he said smiling.

Cliff has computerized the office. "I do a lot of drafting on the computer — all our accounting, proposals and documents are prepared on the computer."

Eventually Cliff hopes to take a set of blueprints and feed the information into the computer so it can estimate the cost of the project.

Turner and Sons is primarily a commercial industrial builder. The

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— Cliff Turner

company has become involved in building design, as well as major renovations.

Some of their work includes the renovation of the Central Park School into the Prairie Gallery and Atlas Tire into the Second Street Theatre.

One project Cliff is especially proud of is the Canadian Imperial Bank of

Commerce building on the corner of Richmond Ave. and Clairmont Rd. His great-grandfather built Birds

Grocery store on the site, his father renovated it into the original Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and then Cliff helped work on the new building.