

Safety First

Ground Aerial Maintenance Services Ltd. receives recognition from provincial safety association.



Ground Aerial Maintenance Service Ltd. (GAMS) is a thriving family owned electrical/utility contractor that has been based in Niagara Falls. The business was founded in 1967 and was operated by Larry and his wife Winnie Vaughan. In the early years the business grew from a staff of two to a staff of 40 plus in 1974. Following the recession of the early eighties their two sons (Larry and Jim) joined the company after graduating in 1985 and have not looked back since. The company owns and operates a fleet of utility vehicles consisting of bucket trucks, radial

guide firms through the process of building a sustainable health and safety system. It is comprised of four levels: Commitment, Effort, Outcomes and Sustainability. Each level builds upon the previous one. Participants work through the program levels focusing on a managed approach to health and safety. Upon successful completion of each level, a firm is recognized for its achievement and join a growing number of firms that are actively demonstrating their commitment to E&USA's vision of zero injuries and illnesses.

company has placed on their safety.

When asked what it means to be a part of a company that cares so much about its employees' safety, Wayne Instrall, a Journey Lineman who has been with the company since 1976 says, "I'm still here. Doesn't that sum it up?"

Kenny Lint, a supervisor with the company for thirty-four years says that the company is very family-oriented and says that it is "very rewarding" to see that the company is so focused on safety.

John Kempt, Supervisor for fifteen years is a member of the Joint Health & Safety Committee and has worked hard to help create the New Employee Orientation Program. He says that the award "means that the hard work has paid off."

Ken Morrisson of Health & Safety reports that the entire company has participated in the Health & Safety programs and describes the employees as "a great bunch to work with." Having worked at GAMS for just over a year, Morrisson credits the office staff and all of the workers for their support. "The workers in the line are very diligent," he says. "They realize that one mistake can be fatal."

To Morrisson, the award tells him that "we're right on track--we have everything in place."

The Vaughan brothers, along with parents Larry and Winnie



Jim Vaughan and Larry Vaughan Jr. receive safety award from Laura Harris of E & USA.

Vaughan, say that the award is a reflection of their amazing staff. While the award was given to the company directly, they stress that the employees make up company and each member of the staff should take pride and share in the honour of the award. They emphasize that this award would not have been achieved without the hard work and diligence of everyone in the company. "It makes us proud as business owners," says Larry Vaughan Jr.

GAMS feels like it's own little community within Niagara Falls, with both management and employees looking out for the safety and well being of their fellow workers. Indeed, the sense of community expands upon the boundaries of Earl Thomas Avenue. GAMS is involved in many community efforts, including the United Way. The Vaughans challenged their

employees to donate to the United Way and this year the company matched the employee donations and raised \$2500 for the organization. It is this kind of caring and generosity that emanates from the building and is evident in the positive, friendly atmosphere given off by the staff.

It is quite clear that everyone at GAMS cares about each other and the community that they live and work in. This attitude was likely instilled because GAMS is a family business. And since family always looks out for one another and takes care of each other, it is clear that the same attitude has evolved in the workplace. The GAMS family has grown over the last forty years, and by their involvement in safety measures such as the ZeroQuest® program, this trend is sure to grow well into the future.



boom diggers, backhoes, trenchers, cranes and various other construction equipment.

Employing over thirty-five employees, GAMS is a leader in their field and puts the safety of their employees first. GAMS takes it's employees' safety to heart and has taken every step possible to ensure that they follow the strictest industry safety standards.

In fact, the message of workplace safety is evident as you pull into the company's parking lot at 8540 Earl Thomas Avenue. A large banner from the Utilities Safety Association of Ontario (E&USA) hangs from the fence, declaring: "We are relentlessly pursuing the path to zero injuries."

In mid-December GAMS received a distinguished safety award from E&USA in recognition of its successful completion of the Commitment Level of ZeroQuest(R).

The E&USA ZeroQuest® Program has been established to

Addressing his employees during the award presentation, Vice President (Electrical) of GAMS, Larry Vaughan Jr., told the staff: "This is because of your efforts . . . It's a great reflection on you guys."

Vaughan Jr. says that the company has been "working diligently over the last year to try to exceed what's required [in regard to safety regulations]." He describes the award as proof that the company is "committed to safety... We don't want to jeopardize any of our employees." His brother Jim Vaughan, Vice President (Fleet Equipment) explains, "The people we work with are the same people we socialize with. We don't want anything bad to happen to any of them."

The brothers emphasize how integral the role of their employees have been to obtaining this safety achievement. The employees have realized the importance of this safety mission and genuinely appreciate the emphasis that the



GAMS

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